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HISTORY
OF
AUDUBON COUNTY
IOWA

ITS PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

H. F. ANDREWS
Editor

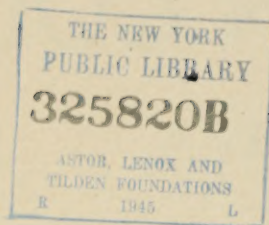
With Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens and
Genealogical Records of Many of the Old Families

ILLUSTRATED

1915
B. F. BOWEN & COMPANY, Inc.
Indianapolis, Indiana

14

EMB



DEDICATION.

This work is respectfully dedicated to

THE PIONEERS,

long since departed. May the memory of those who laid down their burdens
by the wayside ever be fragrant as the breath of summer
flowers, for their toils and sacrifices have made
Audubon County a garden of sun-
shine and delights.

AUTHOR'S FOREWORD

Time flies, never to return. Sixty-four years have flown since the settlement of Audubon county. That period lies behind; the future is before us. Posterity will eagerly scan every source of information to be found concerning the history of their forbears. It is the duty to future generations to perpetuate the history of our people. The best time to write history is at the time of its passage; but, in large measure, this has been neglected to the present time. Our people have been too busy in home-making and in wresting sustenance from a new country; their lives too fully occupied with the duties, necessities and cares of every-day life, and often too poor to devote time or attention to preserving records of the events of their lives and acts. When they passed away, perhaps brief obituaries or grave-stones recited their names, ages, etc., all that is now known about them; even this is often wanting. Some of the history of our people can be found in the public records; the newspapers contain mention of individuals and events that have transpired; church and society records tell of their memberships; the monuments of the dead record names and dates of births and deaths of those who lie in the cemeteries; the family Bibles are repositories of the records of others.

The unit of history is the individual; it proceeds into the family, the neighborhood, town, county and state relations; the aggregate forms the history of a given people.

Three principal events enter into the lives of persons—births, marriages and deaths. The record of marriages were by law required to be kept before the settlement of this county, and we find such records kept from the organization of the county. It is doubtful if all marriages which have occurred here since then have been recorded here; many of our people were married before settlement, and some were married outside the county. The records of births and deaths were not required by law to be kept until long after the settlement of the county, and were not kept for many years. Our public vital statistics are far from complete. It is impossible at the present time to discover accurate vital statistics of all people who have lived here, and this is especially true of the early settlers. The current events of the daily lives of

the people have become in large measure obsolete; the early settlers have mostly passed away, and the memories of the few remaining with us are imperfect, their recollections of early events being often contradictory. Most that occurred here in early times, except such as is of record, has been forgotten, never to be recalled. It is remarkable that so many events of early times have been rescued from oblivion at this late day.

It has been the purpose of this work to compile and preserve some of the principal events and affairs that have transpired in Audubon county since its foundation, in the year 1851, gathered from every available source discovered, for future reference and use.

In its preparation the writer has been assisted by very many persons, too numerous to mention even by name, who have been universally kind in imparting information, and who are entitled to my profound, kindest thanks, as well as to the gratitude of the countless posterity who may rejoice in finding their contributions.

Exira, Iowa, June, 1915.

H. F. ANDREWS.

PREFACE

All life and achievement is evolution; present wisdom comes from past experience, and present commercial prosperity has come only from past exertion and suffering. The deeds and motives of the men who have gone before have been instrumental in shaping the destinies of later communities and state. The development of a new county was at once a task and a privilege. It required great courage, sacrifice and privation. Compare the present conditions of the people of Audubon county, Iowa, with what they were seventy years ago. From a trackless wilderness and virgin land, it has come to be a center of prosperity and civilization, with millions of wealth, systems of railways, grand educational institutions, splendid industries and immense agricultural and mineral productions. Can any thinking person be insensible to the fascination of the study which discloses the aspirations and efforts of the early pioneers who so strongly laid the foundation upon which has been reared the magnificent prosperity of later days? To perpetuate the story of these people and to trace and record the social, political and industrial progress of the community from its first inception is the function of the local historian. A sincere purpose to preserve facts and personal memoirs that are deserving of perpetuation, and which unite the present to the past, is the motive for the present publication. A specially valuable and interesting department is that one devoted to the sketches of representative citizens of this county whose records deserve preservation because of their worth, effort and accomplishment. The publishers desire to extend their thanks to the gentlemen who have so faithfully labored to this end. Thanks are also due to the citizens of Audubon county for the uniform kindness with which they have regarded this undertaking, and for their many services rendered in the gaining of necessary information.

In placing the "History of Audubon County, Iowa," before the citizens, the publishers can conscientiously claim that they have carried out the plan as outlined in the prospectus. Every biographical sketch in the work has been submitted to the party interested, for correction, and therefore any error of fact, if there be any, is solely due to the person for whom the sketch was prepared. Confident that our effort to please will fully meet the approbation of the public, we are,

Respectfully,

THE PUBLISHERS.

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HISTORICAL

CHAPTER I.

GEOGRAPHY, TOPOGRAPHY, ETC.

Audubon county is situated in the west central part of Iowa, the third county east from the Missouri river, about fifty-four miles distant. Lying almost wholly on the Missouri slope, its east boundary approximates nearly the summit of the watershed dividing the Mississippi and Missouri water systems. It is bounded on the north by Carroll, on the east by Guthrie, on the south by Cass, and on the west by Shelby counties. Its area is four hundred and forty-three square miles.

The general surface of the county is rolling, open prairies. The greater and higher lying portions of its lands are of the drift formation and of great fertility, even to the summit of the divides; the lower lying lands along the river bottoms and their tributaries are alluvial deposits of marvelous, matchless richness, often from five to ten feet in depth. The county is nearly free from ponds or lakes. Magnificent stretches of landscapes can be viewed from the high divides in every township in the county. It is rare to witness such fine prairie scenery as abounds in Audubon county.

NATIVE GRASSES.

In its virgin freshness the prairies were vast billows of wild grasses, waving in the wind; the home of the noble elk and graceful deer, but which later became the pastures of numerous herds of horses and cattle, until the native grasses were upturned by the plow of the farmer and converted into veritable gardens. The wild grasses began to grow about April and reached the height of eighteen inches on the hillsides and often six feet in the lowlands. Such noble natural meadows have been rarely witnessed on earth. Many a man remained poor at that period for want of stock to eat up, for his benefit, the wild, rich grasses.

About the month of October the grasses were killed by the frosts, and a little later the ground was swept by prairie fires, leaving the face of the country a bare, black, lonesome wilderness—a transformation from the beautiful to an unsightly, desolate waste. One who has not witnessed such sights can but partially realize them. Those prairie fires, marching and advancing like an army over the hills and hollows in the night-time, illuminating the sky to noonday brightness, were truly wild, magnificent, grand pictures, never to be recalled or forgotten. Those annual fires, destroying vegetation, were the causes which prevented the growth of timber, except in favored localities.

THE SOIL.

The soil is remarkably free from stone or gravel. There is no coal or building stone found in the county. Sand is occasionally found. There is an abundance of brick clay. The rivers and streams are deeply eroded into the fine, black, alluvial soil and furnish an abundance of pure water. The rolling surface of the country affords the best of natural drainage.

For agricultural purposes the soil of the county can hardly be excelled. Its fertility is widely and favorably known. Except what is occupied by rivers, streams and highways, practically all the land in the county is adapted to tillage or grazing. It would be difficult to find a country in the world containing a higher percentage of arable lands. Horses, mules, cattle, hogs, sheep, poultry, cereals, grasses, vegetables and fruits usually found in this latitude are produced in profusion and abundance.

THE RIVERS AND WATER SYSTEM.

Approximately the northeast half of Viola township is drained into Brushy creek, a tributary of the Raccoon river system, which flows southeast. A small area of eastern Viola township drains into the South 'Coon river. The remainder of the county is drained by the Nishna Botna rivers and their tributaries, which flow from north towards the southwest. The East Nishna Botna rises in Carroll county and enters Audubon county at section 3, in Cameron township; thence southeast into Viola township; thence south into and across the extreme northwest corner of Melville township, into Leroy township; thence south across Leroy, Hamlin and Exira townships, leaving the county near the line between Exira and Oakfield townships; traversing the county its entire length from north to south. Its principal tributaries are the East branch, which rises in Melville township and enters

the river in the northwest corner of the township; Blue Grass creek, which rises in Cameron township, and flows south across Leroy township and enters the Botna on the west side in section 15, in Hamlin township. Another branch rises in the northwest part of Hamlin township, flows southeast and enters the Botna on the west side in section 27, same township. David's creek rises in the northeast part of Melville township, flows southwest across Greeley township, and enters the Botna at West Exira. Anderson creek rises in the northeast part of Exira township, and flows west into David's creek at West Exira. Sifford creek rises in the south part of Hamlin township, flows south into the Botna on the west side, in section 17, Exira township. Buck creek rises in the north part of Oakfield township, flows south and enters the Botna on the west side, near Lewis, in Cass county. Troublesome creek rises in the southeast part of Greeley and northeast part of Audubon township, and flows southwest across Audubon and Exira townships and enters the Botna near Atlantic, Iowa. Crooked creek rises in the southeast part of Audubon township, and flows southwest into Troublesome creek, in Cass county. Indian creek rises in the southeast part of Douglas township, flows south through Sharon township into Shelby county; thence south into Cass county and enters the Botna near Elliot, Iowa. Little Indian creek rises in the southwest part of Hamlin township and southeast part of Sharon township, and flows southwest across the northwest part of Oakfield township, and enters the Main Indian creek in Shelby county. The East fork of West Botna rises in Lincoln township, flows south across the northwest part of Douglas township, and enters Shelby county at section 18, Douglas township. Lone Willow creek rises in the east part of Douglas township, flows west and enters the East fork of the Botna in section 9, of same township. Another tributary of the East fork rises in the southwest part of Lincoln township, and flows south, reaching the river in section 18, near where it leaves the county. Still another tributary of the East fork rises in the southwest part of Douglas township, and flows northwest into the principal stream in section 18, same township. Thus the three tributaries which form the East fork of the West Botna unite near together in section 18, in Douglas township.

TIMBER AND GROVES.

When the county was settled it contained some of the best timber in western Iowa. It extended from the county line on the south, up the east side of the Botna river north to the north line of section 14, in Hamlin township. For about fifteen miles, it was an unbroken fringe of timber

next to the river, enlarging into several extensive bodies of heavy, fine timber. One large grove on the Ballard land extended from the county line up to the Mark Heath farm, embracing the heavy timber in sections 30 and 31, in Exira township, and in sections 25 and 36, in Oakfield township, about eight hundred acres of timber and brush land in all. Another extensive tract, called the "Big Grove," of about two thousand seven hundred acres, extended from the town of Oakfield north to the Herrick farm and from the river east two miles. It embraced lands in sections 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 28 and 29 in Exira township. It was the largest and finest body of timber in the county. There were other smaller groves at Gault's, Milliman's, West Exira, at the Wilson and Dodge places, also in sections 27 and 14, in Hamlin township, and at Barlow's and Luccock's groves, in Leroy township. Beginning again at the county line, the timber extended in fringes up Troublesome creek, alternated with the groves of Bowen, Hamlin, Lewis, Walker and Thomas, nearly to the north line of Audubon township, about eight miles. There was a small grove in the extreme northeast of the county and another in section 18, in Douglas township, later called Donaldson's grove. A fringe of timber extended up the creek from the latter-named grove to section 9, in the same township.

In the early days these groves contained many varieties of deciduous trees, namely: White oak, burr oak, black oak, black walnut, shellbark hickory, white hickory, white maple, linn or basswood, cottonwood, white elm, red or slippery elm, aspen or poplar, wild or black cherry, hackberry, willow, ironwood, wild crabapple, wild plum, hawthorn, black haw, occasionally a buckeye, with wild grape and gooseberry. Majestic specimens of the lordly oak and towering walnut were found in great quantities, as well as enormous elms. The writer remembers to have seen here in the early days an oak eight feet in diameter and a walnut which made three logs each twenty feet in length, eighteen inches in diameter at the top and three feet at the butt.

There is now growing on the ancient Nathaniel Hamlin estate a white elm tree eight feet in diameter.

THE INDIANS.

As early as 1803 the Sac and Fox Indians possessed the greater part of Iowa. Some of their celebrated chiefs in eastern Iowa were Blackhawk, Pashapopo, Keokuk, Wapello, Appanoose. The Iowas, who inhabited what is now Van Buren county, on the Des Moines river, were nearly annihilated

by the Sac and Fox tribe. The Sioux, of Minnesota, who extended down into northern Iowa, were a fierce, war-like nation, continually at war with the Sac and Fox tribe. They made war on the whites at Spirit and Okoboji lakes as late as 1857, and it was necessary to call out troops against the Sioux during the Civil War. The Pottawattamies, whose principal settlement was at Trader's Point, in Mills county, went there soon after the Indian treaty of 1833. They had a settlement at Indian Town, near the present town of Lewis, in Cass county. It is not improbable that they hunted and trapped in this vicinity, but they had moved west about the time the Mormons came, in 1846. A remnant of the Iowa Indians came back to Tama county in 1842. They were called Musquakies, or mixed tribe, and still live there.

There is nothing to indicate that the Indians ever made permanent homes in this county. It was not favorable for such resort. The larger rivers, where fish abounded, were better adapted for permanent abodes of the aborigines. We do not find the remains of an Indian town here. Fish never abounded here. The only source of food supply sufficient to sustain a large body of people permanently was elk, deer, and perhaps buffalo at an early period; small game could not be procured in sufficient quantity to sustain a large population. The burning of the grass and herbage annually in the fall destroyed most of the food supply for the sustenance of wild animals during the winter, and probably large numbers of elk and deer migrated during those periods in search of food elsewhere. A limited number only could subsist in the timber and brush lands. The migratory birds did not winter here. But in summer when food for wild animals and birds was abundant, this must have been the Indian hunter's paradise, and the opportunity, no doubt, was improved. Game was abundant and the Indians ate nearly all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as birds, for food.

The Indians continued to make hunting trips here annually in warm weather as late as the year 1886. They were Musquakies, from Tama county, known as "Johnny Green's Tribe." The last time Green himself was seen here was in the fall of 1865, when he was very old. He was a brother of Shabbona, who lived at a grove of that name in DeKalb county, Illinois. Shabbona served with the Indian allies of the British in the War of 1812. As many as fifty in a band, bucks, squaws and papposes, clad in their peculiar array of shirts, leggings, blankets, etc., with numerous ponies and dogs, came to hunt and trap from June until cold weather. They lived in "wickeups," a frame of sapling rods, covered with mats woven food, and were a nuisance on that account. They were excessively fond

of "hoggy meat," and not dainty about their food, if not too far decayed. They lived in "wickiups," a frame of sapling rods, covered with mats woven from flags by the squaws. The walls sloped and were open at the top for the escape of smoke when fires were kindled near the center within. They were cozy and comfortable, but not always clean. Later they lived in canvas tents. Some of the Indians were drunkards, but not worse than some white people. Many of them gloried in horse-racing and were not inferior to the whites in that kind of sport. Their favorite camping places were near Walker's place, on Troublesome creek; near the Burton place, on the Botna; near the mouth of David's creek, west of Exira; north of Exira in sections 21 and 27. in Hamlin township on the Botna; at Blue Grass Grove, where the county poorhouse is located; at Luccock's Grove; and the groves on West Botna, in Douglas township, and at other places.

The late A. B. Houston, of Exira, once said that the Indians came to his place about 1857, and were making free, without invitation, with his little supply of corn, and broke up the nests of Mrs. Houston's sitting hens, seeking food for themselves and ponies. The Indians were normally hungry. Houston remonstrated with them and they departed grumblingly.

In 1871, about harvest time, the Indians made a camp in the timber on the Botna north of Exira, in Hamlin township, and were making havoc with the deer. Several hunters, among them John Huntley, John Dodge, Sant. Anderson, William Evans, the writer, and others, armed and mounted, went to their camp. Huntley acted as leader. He drew the profile of an Indian with charcoal on the bark of a tree; then pointing to the picture said: "Him Indian! Indian kill white man's buck! White man skuddaho (whip) Indian like h—! Puckachee (go away)!" He then drew a revolver and shot at the picture. The Indians observed him closely and held a consultation among themselves, and one of them, pointing towards the place of sunrise, said: "Morning, Indian puckachee way off." They kept their promise. I have since thought that we treated the poor savages worse than the occasion required; but it was an aggravation for them to come into our settlement and kill game under our noses, when there was plenty by going a little farther away.

AN INDIAN APOLLO.

On one occasion, about that period, while the Indians were camped at the same place, several of our young gentlemen took their lady friends and sweethearts to see them on a friendly visit one evening. There was an enormous young "buck" in the band named Jo, who stood six and a half

feet in height, and correspondingly proportioned, a young Apollo, and a skillful hunter, who had been out for game that day and had retired to rest for the night when the party arrived at camp. He was stretched out on the ground near the wall of the tent at repose, enveloped with a blanket, and presented an inviting prospect for a seat. Indians do not use chairs or seats, but usually squat down on the ground or on mats when inside their abodes. One of the young ladies present on that occasion, tired of standing, spied the "seat," as she supposed, and proceeded to appropriate and sit on it. Jo, good naturedly, stoically submitted, for a while, but finally moved and rolled over, which startled the lady, who sprang up with a scream, to receive a general shout of laughter at her expense, in which Jo heartily joined, to the chagrin of the victim of misplaced confidence.

About that period I. K. Johnson employed the writer to survey his land (in section 36, Lincoln township), which he was unable to find, and where he afterwards settled. It was late in the fall of the year and, while at work, I observed off to the east a strange performance which excited my curiosity. There was a scarlet object, surmounted by a black spot, moving along the ground and not far distant were two deer gazing at it, alternately approaching and retreating as if trying to discover the nature of the strange sight. I soon concluded that someone was trying to lure the deer within gun-shot. The hunter was enveloped with a red blanket with his black head showing above, a remarkable sight. I had known the trick to succeed with antelope decoyed in that way, but never before or since have seen it succeed with deer. But it worked all right in that case. The deer got into range and the hunter shot and killed one of them, a fine doe, but the other escaped. It was before the days of repeating rifles. I went over to the scene, when, lo and behold, the successful hunter was the Indian, Jo, who greeted me in a friendly manner. He prepared the deer by removing its entrails and bound its feet together, swung it upon his back with the legs across his breast, and started for camp several miles away, which we also reached the same night, it being located in a small grove where Mr. Ellsberry had settled, in Douglas township, and where Johnson and myself also camped. We heard the bells on the Indian ponies nearly all night. It snowed during the night, but we had improvised a shelter from a wagon-cover spread over a pole placed in the fork of a sapling near a large tree then recently blown down. Next morning I went to the Indian camp and got some venison for breakfast free of cost. When I arrived there the Indians were at breakfast, eating from a large pan of colored beans and

corn, cooked with deer meat. One of the Indians performed a ceremony similar to saying grace before eating.

The first settlers found the place of sepulcher of an Indian chief named Pymosa, soon after coming here. Possibly he was known to history. If I ever knew, I have forgotten his tribe. The spot was in the timber on the land of Doctor Ballard, in section 31, Exira township, east of the Ballard bridge. The body was found in a sitting position on the ground, decorated with ear-rings, beads, trinkets, etc., enclosed with slabs of wood (puncheons), all being surrounded with a conical stack of saplings and logs to protect the body from wild animals. He had been dead long enough for the flesh to fall from the bones. His skull and some of the bones and decorations were carried away by the whites as souvenirs. His name is preserved in the name of the adjoining township of Pymosa, in Cass county, a fitting rebuke to the settlers of Audubon for the sacrilege and desecration of the red chief's sepulcher and remains.

WILD ANIMALS.

In the year 1870 the bones of a mastodon were found in the bank of a small stream near the west line of what is now Lincoln township. The writer obtained a portion of one of the ribs, nearly five feet in length, and a section of the vertebra, six inches in diameter. The early settlers found the horns, skulls and bones of buffalo here. William P. Hamlin killed a buffalo on Buck creek soon after he settled there. Bryant Milliman and John Crane, while traveling to Council Bluffs, about the same time, saw and chased buffalo a short distance west of where Atlantic is now situated. A wild buffalo was killed in Dallas county in the year 1865. It is well known that wild buffalo were found in the northwest part of Iowa as late as 1866.

When the first settlers came, there were bear, panther, lynx, bobcat, otter, beaver, mink, muskrat, gray wolf, coyote, elk, deer, fox and gray squirrel, and, occasionally, a white squirrel, chipmunk, weasel, gray and striped ground squirrel, pocket gopher, skunk, rabbit, sand hill crane, heron, wild turkey, swan, wild goose, brant, several varieties of duck, prairie chicken, quail, curlew, several varieties of snipe, plover, eagle, turkey buzzard, several varieties of hawk, robin, meadow lark, blackbird, crow, woodpecker, bluejay, yellowhammer, bluebird, sparrow, snowbird, several varieties of owl, oriole, catbird, bee martin, swallow, martin, chimneyswallow, wren, bluebird. There were some small scale fish, sucker, chub, dace, silverside, sunfish; but they have all gone, and in their place have come bull-

head, catfish and carp. Snakes were quite numerous, among them being rattlesnake, bullsnake, blue racer and gartersnake. The elk and deer abounded and settlers took them in large numbers for food, and for their skins, until the severe winter of 1857, after which they were not so plentiful. "Uncle" John Jenkins once said that he counted over one hundred elk in a band on the high point of land on what is now John I. Hensley's farm, west of the Botna, near West Exira. In the spring of 1866 the writer visited that spot and found there a large elk skull, with a noble set of antlers attached, nearly six feet in length, partly decayed and gnawed by wolves. Elk horns were found plentifully here at that time on the prairie, where they had been killed or where they had shed them. A large set of elk antlers would weigh as much as twenty-five pounds, and it is a fact that they were shed annually about February. A new set grew each year during the summer. They were at first about the consistency of cheese and very tender, being covered with a beautiful, delicate purple membrane, called the "velvet," which material it resembled. The deer had very much the same habit about the shedding and growth of horns.

There were some hunters who lived in what is now known as Davidson's Grove, in section 18, Douglas township, who killed considerable numbers of elk and deer about 1867-8. One of them was said to have been killed by lightning in the fall or early winter of 1867 in the west part of what is now Lincoln township, several miles north of their camp. His body was covered with snow and found the next spring, with his rifle near him. A thunderstorm was known to have occurred at the time he was lost and from the appearance of the body and gun, which was broken, it was reported that he was killed by lightning. It was said that he appeared to have been following elk tracks when killed. There were also rumors that he met death by foul means. No legal proceedings were ever taken about the event.

The last bands of elks in the county were on Indian creek, Blue Grass and West Botna. Lone Willow was a favorite resort for them. They disappeared about 1870-1. The last hunters to kill elk were John Huntley, Edwin C. Wadsworth, Stephen Bowdish and Frank Harrington. Possibly Christopher C. Luccock and the Indians may have killed some about the same time. The deer gradually disappeared, though a few have been seen here almost to the present time; possibly there may be a few yet. In 1868 the writer took thirty saddles of vension from Exira to Des Moines. The tracks of three deer were seen near the railroad depot at Exira in 1880. The writer killed several deer here before 1870. Being at "Uncle" John Jenkins's place in the fall of 1865, I went with George Jenkins to hunt for some cattle. In a

brush patch we jumped up half a dozen deer, which scampered away. I had a Colts' revolver, but was so much excited at my first sight of deer that I forgot the gun entirely. Returning to the house, I related the experience to Mr. Jenkins, who consoled me by remarking: "Well, sir, it's a mighty pooty sight to the eye of a hunter—but you had the 'Buck Ager;' I've had it myself before now and had to bite my finger till it hurt like the very devil to steady my nerves." I thought it a novel method of quieting nervousness, but do not remember ever practicing it. The theory seemed to be that the pain of the gnawed finger exceeded the nervousness produced at the presence of the game. It is a fact that old hunters sometimes become excited at the near proximity of wild game.

William Powell, who lived where Ad. Seibert now resides at Exira, while out hunting near "Towhead" (section 1, Exira township), discovered some bear, but, being alone, feared to attack them. He came home and reported his find. Alex Kincaid, who lived in the Big Grove, south of the Burton place, John Jenkins, John Hoggard and Philip Arthur Decker took some dogs and went in pursuit. They found the bear and killed them, after the old bear had killed one of the dogs. This account was related by John T. Jenkins, of the hunters mentioned. A large bear skull was found many years ago in a small stream in the "big grove" on section 21, Exira township, which is now in the museum of the State Historical Society. Howard J. Green, Folly Herrick and others have told about killing wild turkey here, saying that they were plentiful in early days. There was a well-defined beaver-dam a mile above Exira, on the Botna, in 1866. Perk Smith saw where the beaver had cut down trees there as large as a stove pipe. Swans, wild geese, brants, ducks and sandhill cranes were plentiful in the spring and fall for many years. Howard J. Green and Folly Herrick told the writer that they had killed wild turkey in the timber where Walter B. Temple now lives. Prairie chickens were very plentiful until after the railroad came in 1878, and large numbers of them were taken by sportsmen.

The following letter, written from Farrall, Wyoming, in 1909, by Mrs. Cymanthia A. Smith, daughter of William P. Hamlin, gives a fairly good picture of the early times here:

"I happened to see one of the *Audubon County Journals*, telling about the early settlement of Audubon county. You say you have never seen any one that claimed to have seen a panther there. There must have been several there, or in Cass county. My father and a man named John Prat saw one as they were going across the prairie from our place on Buck creek. They were in a wagon and when the panther saw them it dropped down on an

ant-hill and witched them as they passed, only about ten steps from the road. Father said he could have shot it if he had had a gun. And, as for bears, they were plenty, at least on Buck creek. We lived at the lower grove, two miles below Barney Harris' grove, and there was another between them, called Middle grove. We used to hear the bears at night fighting and squalling in the Middle grove. Father went at one time to move a man to Nebraska, and Martha Johnston, afterwards Mrs. William Carpenter, stayed with our family while father was gone. One night during his absence, we heard something walking around the house and were greatly frightened. There was no door to the house, only a quilt hung up, with chairs set against it to shut the entrance. The next day we found bear tracks around the house, which proved who our visitor was. It made no attempt to enter the house. There were lots of wild turkeys in the Big grove; but father killed only the young ones, which were nice to fry. I have seen my father chasing hundreds of elk at a time, which came near our house. He killed nine elk one Christmas and brought home a large one alive. We kept it until the next summer, fattened and killed it to eat. There was a crust on the deep snow which enabled father to kill those on that Christmas. Something funny happened when we lived on the Goodale place. One night the hounds wakened us by chasing something around the house. Father jumped up to see what it was and just as he got out, a deer ran past him, which he caught by the horns. He called to mother to bring the butcher knife, and with it he killed the deer. One time, on Buck creek, when father was absent from home, five wolves came close to the house. Our dog would chase them a short distance; then the wolves would turn and drive him back faster than he had driven them away. When the dog got near the house he would get brave and go after them again. Mother and us children watched the performance from the yard.

"Father and Uncle Natty lived near each other on Skunk river, in Mahaska county. Ben and Ike Jenkins helped to move us from Mahaska to Cass county with an ox team in the fall of 1851. I was only three years old, but remember it well. There was but one house on the hill east of the river at Des Moines, and I think only three houses on the west side.

"I remember the ferry boat was so old and rotten mother was afraid to go on it, and I think our only cow thought the same way, for she jumped overboard and swam ashore.

"The first election in Cass county was held at our house on the old Goodale place. We moved to Exira in the fall of 1860 (from Buck creek).

"MRS. W. F. SMITH."

NAMES OF RIVERS AND PLACES.

The Nishua Botna river probably received its name lower down its course, near the Missouri river, into which it discharges. It is mentioned in the diary of Lewis and Clark, kept on their expedition from St. Louis to the Pacific ocean, as follows: "On the 14th (May, 1804) elk were seen for the first time. Passed the Nishua Botna and Little Nemahaw rivers, and found the former to be only three hundred yards from the Missouri at the distance of twelve miles from its mouth," indicating previous knowledge of the name. The writer is unable to recognize to what language it belongs; perhaps it is an Indian word, or it may be from the patois of the old French voyageurs, who traversed the Missouri river country in earlier times. Doctor Ballard once said that the word Nishua Botna signified "To cross in a boat."

It has been said that the government surveyors gave the name to Troublesome creek. While surveying the land through which it flows, the water was high and they had frequent occasion to cross it, hence the name. It should be remembered that the streams carried more water in early times than at present.

Crooked creek, a tributary of Troublesome, undoubtedly received its name from the form of its channel.

Unexpected creek (or Pleasant run), in section 35, near Hamlin's, was named by the surveyors, who came upon it unexpectedly, and so gave it that name.

Sifford creek was named for John Seifford, who settled on its bank near where T. J. Essington lived.

The name of Buck creek was suggested from the large number of deer found there in early times, according to the account of Doctor Ballard.

David's creek was named for David Edgerton.

Anderson creek, at Exira, was named for David Anderson.

Four-mile creek was so called because it was four miles from Exira.

William Brice, who lived in section 31, Greeley township, bestowed the name Honey creek upon the little stream there where he resided.

The early settlers discovered a patch of blue grass in the little grove on the present poorfarm in this county. It was supposed the seed was scattered there by Mormons in their journey westward. The place was called Blue Grass grove and the creek near it received the same name.

East branch, in Melville township, received its name in early times from its direction from the principal river of which it was a tributary.

West Botna, in Lincoln and Douglas townships, takes its name from the principal river.

Indian creek and Little Indian probably received the name lower down on the stream. There was an old town on the stream near the town of Lewis, called Indian Town.

The name of Lone Willow, in Douglas township, suggests its origin.

Exira was named for Miss Exira Eckman. Her father, Judge John Eckman, from Ohio, was here visiting his relatives, the Cranes, at the time the town was laid out and platted. Mr. Edgerton, the proprietor, had intended to name the town Viola, for his daughter. Mr. Eckman proposed if Edgerton would name the town Exira, for his daughter, he would buy a town lot, which was agreed to.

Viola township was named for the daughter of Arthur L. Sanborn, who was a member of the board of supervisors when the township was organized.

Melville township was named for James Melville Graham, the lawyer at Audubon, a son of Samuel A. Graham, who was a member of the board of supervisors when the township was organized.

Leroy township was named for Leroy Freeman, a Union soldier, killed in the Civil War, and brother of our well-known citizen, Ethelbert J. Freeman, who was an early and prominent settler in that township. Leroyville postoffice, now obsolete, was named after the same manner.

Hamlin Grove postoffice, now obsolete; the old town of Hamlin, also obsolete; Hamlin township and Hamlin Station were all named in honor of the first settler, Nathaniel Hamlin.

Cameron township was named in honor of the Cameron family, several members of which were early settlers in Viola and Cameron townships.

Brayton was named for the civil engineer who worked on the railroad during its construction, 1878-79.

Oakfield was named by Elam W. Pearl, a resident there, after a place of the same name in New York state.

Gray was named for its proprietor, George Gray.

Towhead was the name of the high point of land three miles east of Exira. Years ago there were two oak trees there, which served as a landmark for miles around in most directions. The trees have long since vanished and the name is nearly obsolete.

CHAPTER II.

ORGANIZATION OF AUDUBON COUNTY.

Audubon county was undoubtedly named in honor of the celebrated ornithologist, John James Audubon, who died in the year 1851.

At the time of its organization by the state Legislature, it formed part of Keokuk county, which embraced at one period the southern portion of Iowa.

Audubon county was organized by provision of section 18, chapter 9, acts of the third General Assembly of Iowa, approved January 15, 1851, which provided: "That the following shall be the boundaries of a new county, which shall be called Audubon, to-wit: Beginning at the northwest corner of township 81 north, range 32 west; thence west on the line between townships 81 and 82, to the northwest corner of township 81, range 36 west; thence south on range line dividing ranges 36 and 37 to the southwest corner of township 78 north, range 36; thence east on the line between townships 77 and 78 to the southwest corner of township 78, range 32 west; thence north between ranges 32 and 33, to the place of beginning."

This boundary was changed a few days later by subsequent act of the Legislature, namely, chapter 81, acts of the third General Assembly, approved February 5, 1851, which provided: "That the following shall be the boundaries of the county of Guthrie, to-wit: Beginning at the northwest corner of township 81 north, of range 29 west; thence west on the township lines dividing townships 81 and 82, to the northwest corner of township 81 north, range 33 west; thence south to the southwest corner of township 78, range 33 west; thence east on the township lines between townships 77 and 78, to the southwest corner of township 78, range 29 west; thence north to the place of beginning."

The cause of this change was remote. To adjust the boundaries of Polk county in such manner as to make Des Moines nearer the center of the county, a tier of townships was severed from the east of Polk and attached to Jasper county. To compensate for the change, a tier of townships was taken from the east of Dallas and attached to Polk county. Then a tier of townships was taken from the east of Guthrie and attached to Dallas county.

and a tier of townships was taken from the east of Audubon and attached to Guthrie county.

There was no one living in Audubon county at that time, and its interests were unprotected. The readjustment should have continued by adding a tier of townships to the west of Audubon taken from the east of Shelby county, and Shelby should then have received a like territory from the east of Harrison county, which would have fairly equalized the counties.

The time for correcting the injustice to Audubon county has long passed. To disturb the county boundaries, now that permanent county seats have been located and public records of long standing have been established, would work irreparable injury and damage to the people now residing where such changes could and should have been made many years ago. We have since lived to experience the many permanent disadvantages resulting from that act of injustice. The relative expenses of county government must always remain greater in a small than in a larger county. In political affairs, in the distribution of state and district officers, the rights of a small county have frequently been disregarded and denied. The people of Audubon county have repeatedly experienced such prejudice and injustice and will probably continue to do so.

Doctor Ballard and Peoria I. Whitted took an active part in procuring the organization of the county. At one time Mr. Whitted made a trip for that purpose to Iowa City and return, on foot. The expenses were paid principally by Doctor Ballard.

It was provided by section 10, chapter 8, acts of the fourth General Assembly of Iowa, approved January 12, 1853. "That the county of Cass shall be composed of three civil townships for the present organization, that is: all the territory embraced in Cass county shall constitute one civil township; that which lies in the county of Audubon shall constitute one civil township; and all that which lies in the county of Adair shall constitute one civil township; the three for revenue, election and judicial purposes constituting the county of Cass. The first election to be held at Boshaw's [Bradshaw's] store, in Cass county, at Mr. Hamlin's in Audubon township, at the house of Alfred Jones in Adair township." It does not appear that any election was held in Audubon county under this law.

It was further provided by section 2, chapter 12, acts of the fourth General Assembly, approved January 12, 1853: "Whenever the citizens of any unorganized county desire to have the same organized, they may make application by petition in writing, signed by a majority of the legal voters of said county, to the county judge of the county to which such unorganized

county is attached; whereupon such county judge shall order an election for county officers in such unorganized county. Notice of said election must be given, the election conducted and the returns thereof made to the organized county to which the same was attached, and canvassed in the manner provided by law for filling vacancies in county offices."

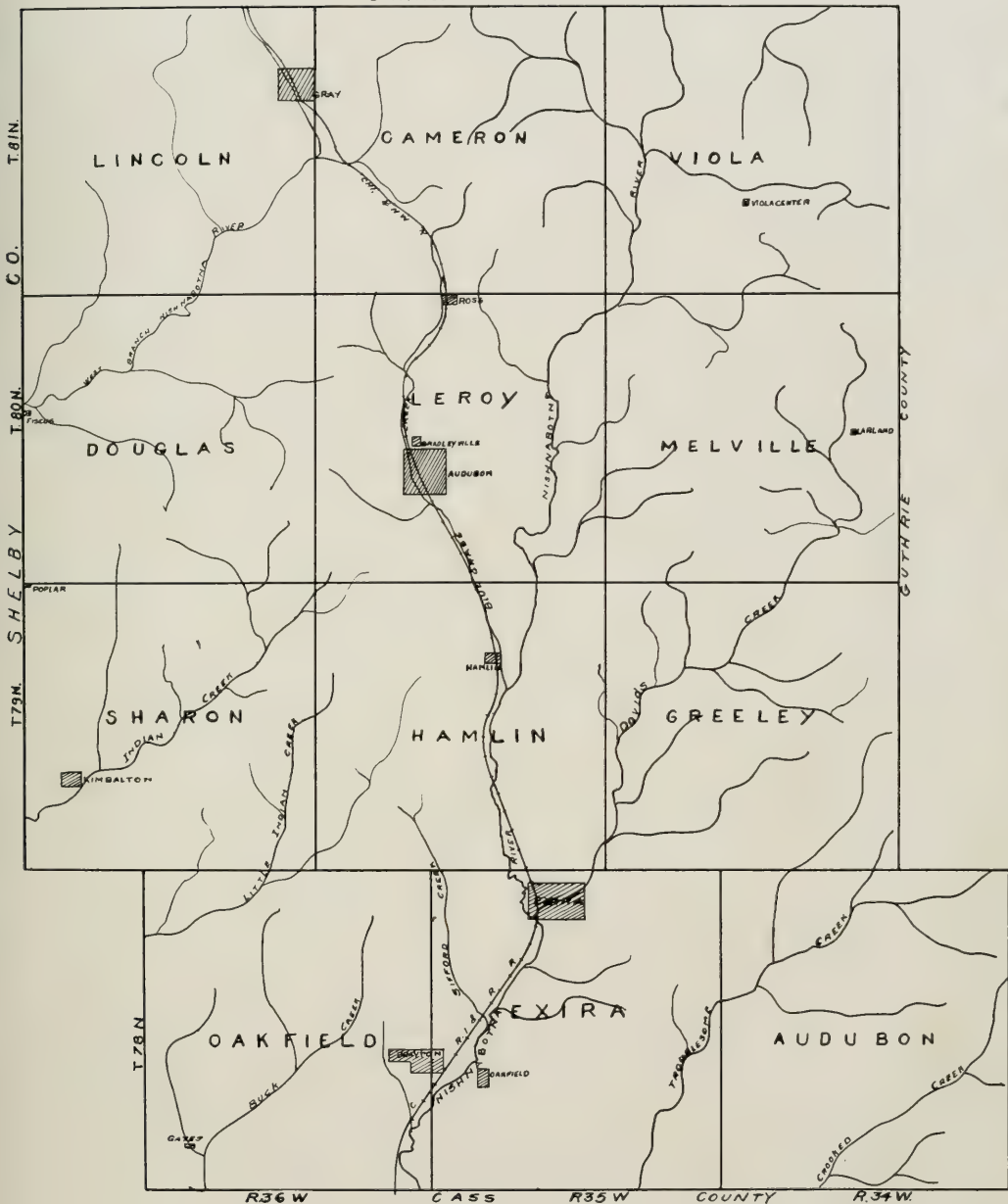
We suppose the county was organized under this statute. Peoria I. Whitted bore the petition from the people of this county to the county judge of Cass county at Lewis, praying for an order for the organization of the county, and for the first election of county officers, as is supposed, in the early part of the year 1855. No record of the transaction is to be found at this time in this or in Cass county. It is traditional that the proper order was made by Mr. Benedict, county judge of Cass county. The first election was held at the house of John S. Jenkins, in section 29, Exira township, April 2, 1855. John S. Jenkins, Walter J. Jardine and Isaac V. D. Lewis were judges of election, and John W. Beers and Carlos E. Frost were clerks. The first officers elected were: Thomas S. Lewis, county judge; John W. Beers, clerk of court; Miles Beers, treasurer and recorder; David L. Anderson, prosecuting attorney; Benjamin M. Hyatt, sheriff; Robert Stansberry, coroner; John W. Beers, surveyor; Urbane Herrick and Carlos E. Frost, justices of peace; William H. H. Bowen, assessor and road supervisor.

In May, 1855, Hon. E. H. Sears, judge of the district court of Cass county, appointed T. N. Johnson, of Adair county; T. Bryan, of Guthrie county, and C. E. Woodward, of Cass county, commissioners to locate the county seat of Audubon county. The last two named members qualified as such, and reported on June 20, 1855, that they had located the county seat on the east half of the northwest quarter of section 22, in township 78, range 35. This land was then owned by Rev. Richard C. Meek, who conveyed it to Audubon county, retaining a share of the lots to be laid out. Under provisions of the statute, it was laid out and platted for the county by Thomas S. Lewis, county judge, as the town of Dayton, July 9, 1855. It became the county seat only in name; but two houses were ever built there, those of Norman Archer and Rev. Mr. Baker. The public records were kept and business transacted at the places of residence of the officers until the removal of the county seat to Exira in 1861. The town of Dayton received some notoriety abroad, and quite a trade of its town lots was carried on in other states, until its true character became known.

At the general election in August, 1855, the following named county officers were elected: Daniel M. Harris, county judge; Nathaniel Hamlin,

MAP OF AUDUBON COUNTY

CARROLL CO.



Drawn by C.D. Forsbeck. CE

treasurer and recorder; Benjamin Hyatt, sheriff; Peoria I. Whitted, surveyor. Peoria I. Whitted was appointed swamp land commissioner.

POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS.

Since the organization of Audubon county, the districts of which it has formed parts for election and governmental purposes, have been variously formed and frequently changed. In 1862 the fifth congressional district embraced the counties of Adair, Adams, Audubon, Cass, Clarke, Decatur, Dallas, Fremont, Guthrie, Harrison, Lucas, Madison, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Polk, Pottawattamie, Ringgold, Shelby, Taylor, Union, Warren and Wayne.

In 1872 the eighth congressional district embraced the counties of Adams, Audubon, Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, Ringgold, Shelby, Taylor and Union.

In 1882 the ninth congressional district embraced the counties of Audubon, Cass, Crawford, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Pottawattamie and Shelby. Since 1886 it has embraced the counties of Adair, Audubon, Cass, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Pottawattamie and Shelby.

Since 1886 it has embraced the counties of Adair, Audubon, Cass, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Pottawattamie and Shelby.

SENATORIAL DISTRICTS.

In 1855, the twelfth senatorial district in the Legislature embraced the counties of Audubon, Buena Vista, Buncombe (now Lyons), Carroll, Calhoun, Cherokee, Clay, Crawford, Dickinson, Emmet, Harrison, Ida, Monona, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Pocahontas, Pottawattamie, Sac, Shelby, Sioux and Woodbury. In 1858 it remained unchanged. In 1860, the thirty-first senatorial district embraced the counties of Audubon, Cass, Guthrie, Harrison, Pottawattamie and Shelby. In 1862 the thirty-first district embraced the counties of Adair, Audubon, Cass, Dallas, Guthrie and Shelby.

In 1864 the forty-third senatorial district embraced the counties of Audubon, Buena Vista, Buncombe (now Lyons), Carroll, Calhoun, Cherokee, Clay, Crawford, Dickinson, Emmet, Hancock, Harrison, Humboldt, Ida, Kossuth, Monona, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Pocahontas, Sac, Shelby, Sioux, Webster, Winnebago, Woodbury and Wright.

In 1866 the forty-fifth senatorial district embraced the counties of Audubon, Carroll, Cherokee, Crawford, Greene, Harrison, Ida, Lyon, Monona, O'Brien, Osceola, Plymouth, Shelby, Sioux and Woodbury.

In 1868 the forty-sixth senatorial district embraced the counties of Audubon, Carroll, Cherokee, Crawford, Harrison, Ida, Lyon, Monona, O'Brien, Osceola, Plymouth, Shelby, Sioux and Woodbury.

In 1870 the forty-eighth senatorial district embraced the counties of Audubon, Cherokee, Crawford, Harrison, Ida, Lyons, Monona, O'Brien, Osceola, Plymouth, Shelby, Sioux and Woodbury.

In 1872 the forty-ninth senatorial district embraced the counties of Audubon, Carroll, Dallas, Green and Guthrie. In 1874 the forty-ninth district embraced the counties of Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Green, Guthrie and Shelby. In 1876 the forty-ninth district remained unchanged.

From 1878 to 1882, inclusive, the Thirty-first senatorial district embraced the counties of Audubon, Dallas, Guthrie and Shelby. Since 1884, and including that year, the seventeenth senatorial district has embraced the counties of Audubon, Dallas and Guthrie.

REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS.

In 1851 the district for representative in the Legislature embraced the counties of Adams, Adair, Audubon, Beuna Vista, Buncombe (now Lyons), Carroll, Cass, Cherokee, Clay, Crawford, Dickinson, Fremont, Harrison, Ida, Mills, Monona, Montgomery, O'Brien, Osceola, Plymouth, Pottawattamie, Ringgold, Sac, Shelby, Sioux, Taylor, Union and Waukaw (now Woodbury).

In 1854 the fortieth representative district embraced the counties of Adams, Adair, Audubon, Cass, Mills, Montgomery and Union.

In 1855 the sixteenth representative district embraced the counties of Audubon, Beuna Vista, Buncombe (now Lyons), Carroll, Calhoun, Cherokee, Clay, Crawford, Dickinson, Emmet, Harrison, Ida, Monona, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Pocahontas, Sac, Shelby, Sioux and Woodbury. In 1858 the sixteenth district embraced the counties of Audubon, Boone, Carroll and Greene.

In 1860 the thirty-sixth representative district embraced the counties of Audubon, Guthrie, Harrison and Shelby.

In 1862 the sixty-first representative district embraced the counties of Adair, Audubon, Cass and Guthrie.

In 1864 the sixty-first representative district remained unchanged.

In 1866 the sixty-fourth district embraced the counties of Audubon, Carroll, Calhoun and Greene.

In 1868 the sixty-fourth district embraced the counties of Audubon, Guthrie and Greene.

In 1870 the fortieth representative district embraced the counties of Audubon, Guthrie and Shelby.

In 1872 the fortieth district embraced the counties of Audubon, Crawford, Monona and Shelby.

In 1874 the twenty-first representative district embraced the counties of Adair, Audubon, Cass and Shelby. In 1876 the twenty-first district remained unchanged.

From 1878 to 1882, inclusive, the seventy-fourth representative district embraced the counties of Adair, Audubon and Shelby.

From 1884 to 1886, inclusive, Audubon county formed the eighty-second representative district.

Since 1888, and including that year, Audubon county has formed the thirty-fourth representative district.

JUDICIAL DISTRICTS.

In 1851 the judicial district embraced the counties of Adair, Adams, Audubon, Buena Vista, Buncome (Lyons), Carroll, Cass, Cherokee, Clay, Crawford, Dickinson, Fremont, Harrison, Ida, Mills, Monona, Montgomery, O'Brien, Osceola, Page, Plymouth, Pottawattamie, Ringgold, Sac, Shelby, Sioux, Taylor, Union and Waukaw (Woodbury).

In 1853 the sixth judicial district embraced the counties of Adair, Adams, Audubon, Cass, Fremont, Guthrie, Montgomery, Page, Ringgold, Taylor and Union.

In 1857 the seventh judicial district embraced the counties of Audubon, Cass, Harrison, Pottawattamie and Shelby.

From 1858 to 1862, inclusive, the fifth judicial district embraced the counties of Adair, Audubon, Carroll, Dallas, Greene, Guthrie, Madison, Polk and Warren.

In 1864 Cass was added to the fifth district.

From 1866 to 1868 the fifth district remained unchanged.

In 1872 the thirteenth judicial district embraced the counties of Audubon, Carroll, Cass, Crawford, Fremont, Greene, Mills, Pottawattamie and Shelby.

Since 1887 the fifteenth judicial district has embraced the counties of

Audubon, Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie and Shelby.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION DISTRICT.

In 1857 the twelfth district in the third constitutional convention embraced the counties of Audubon, Buena Vista, Buncombe (now Lyons), Carroll, Calhoun, Cherokee, Clay, Crawford, Dickinson, Emmet, Harrison, Ida, Monona, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Pocahontas, Pottawattamie, Sac, Shelby, Sioux and Woodbury.

CIVIL TOWNSHIPS.

From 1853, when Audubon county was attached to Cass county for civil purposes, it remained as but a single township called Audubon township, until 1862.

On June 3, 1863, the board of supervisors—consisting of but one member, Boynton G. Dodge—entered an order dividing the county into three townships as follows: Exira township, commencing at the northeast corner of section 12, township 78, range 34 west; thence west to west line of the county; thence north on the county line to the correction line; thence west on county line to southwest corner of section 31, township 79, range 36; thence north on county line to northwest corner of the county; thence east on county line to northeast corner of the county; thence south to the southeast corner of section 36, township 79, range 34; thence east on line to northeast corner of section 1, township 78, range 34; thence south to southeast corner of said section 1, place of beginning. Audubon township, commencing at southeast corner of section 33, township 78, range 35; thence north to northwest corner of section 10; thence east to east line of the county; thence south on county line to southeast corner of the county; thence west to place of beginning. Oakfield township, commencing at southeast corner of section 33, township 78, range 35; thence north to the northeast corner of section 9; thence west to west line of the county; thence south on county line to southwest corner of the county; thence east to place of beginning.

This division gave to Exira township the territory embraced in the nine northern townships of the county, and also a strip two sections wide off the north end of the other three townships. It was manifestly unjust. At

that time most of the residents of the county lived within the limits of township 78, range 35, now Exira township.

On June 8, 1863, the board of supervisors entered another order, subdividing the county into civil townships as follows:

Audubon township embraced the east half of township 78, range 35, except sections 1, 2 and 3, and all of township 78, range 34, township 79, range 34, township 80, range 34, and township 81, range 34.

Exira township embraced sections 1 to 6, inclusive, in township 78, range 35, and all of township 79, range 35, township 80, range 35, and township 81, range 35.

Oakfield township embraced the west half of township 78, range 35, except sections 4, 5 and 6, and all of township 78, range 36, township 79, range 36, township 80, range 36, and township 81, range 36, which was an equitable division. It divided the settled portion of the county fairly between the several townships.

COUNTY SEAT ASPIRATIONS.

The town of Exira, being the county seat, was supposed to hold advantages over other portions of the county, and jealousies arose which continued as long as it was the county seat. Traces of heart burnings on that account have not ceased at the present time. The causes were too numerous to mention them all; some were politic, some social, and others from business competition, etc. Nathaniel Hamlin, who lived on Troublesome creek in the new Audubon township, was one of the wealthiest men in the county. He lived on the route from Des Moines to Council Bluffs and was the most widely known business man in the county for many years. Hamlin and Hamlin's Grove were known state wide, and in other states where Audubon county land was then owned. He had founded the town of Audubon City, near his home, which had proved a failure from the start.

Daniel M. Harris (who at first had lived near Hamlin), in the year 1857, with David Edgerton, founded the town of Exira, which became the county seat in 1861. Harris at once became popular, and was by far the ablest business man in the county. He held the office of county judge from 1856 to 1861 inclusive, while Hamlin was treasurer and recorder, the financial officer of the county, from 1856 to 1863 inclusive. They became rivals in business and in local politics, although both were Democrats. Mr. Hamlin became prejudiced against Exira, which continued as long as he lived. In 1866 he founded the town of Louisville, and attempt-

ed to move the county seat there from Exira, but failed. In 1872 he became interested in the town of Old Hamlin, and attempted to move the county seat there. He was also a prominent factor in enjoining the building of a court house at Exira in 1872-3.

Oakfield was founded in 1858, and started the first store in the county. It was a rival to Exira from its start until the advent of the railroad in 1871, when it was eclipsed by the town of Brayton. It was the custom of Oakfield people to assume superiority over the people of Exira in social functions. They had a decided weakness in making themselves disagreeable in that way. If Exira people got up a festivity or started some local improvement, a new road, bridge, building, etc., the people of Oakfield were prone to discount it and go one better. Their picnics, dances, etc., were foolishly "cracked up" to be in advance of anything Exira could produce; and so it went on, straining the cordiality and friendship that should have existed between the little towns. It is justice to say that their people did lay themselves out in their best style to entertain. But for political meetings, Fourth of July celebrations and religious meetings Exira usually came out "ahead of the hounds."

ORGANIZATION OF NEW TOWNSHIPS.

After the close of the Civil War, immigration flowed towards this county; people came here in goodly numbers, and by 1870 the population of the county had more than doubled in the previous five years. The north end of the county settled up as never before, and was demanding more rights for schools, roads, bridges, voting precincts, etc., to which they were fairly entitled. The question of the organization of new townships naturally arose. Mr. Hamlin and his followers, with the Oakfield contingent, were ever ready to knife Exira in any public way. The growing interests in the north part of the county presented an opportunity to strike the fatal blow. The troubles that hovered around the fated county seat opened in 1871. Several parties, about this time, set the ball to rolling and agitated the reconstruction of the township organization in the county, suggesting various plans, but without uniform action or support. There were general demands for more voting places in the northern portion of the county.

On June 7, 1871, that enterprising, progressive, genial, energetic citizen, Ethelbert J. Freeman, the gentleman from Leroy, presented a petition to the board of supervisors praying for the erection of new townships.

And the board of supervisors, consisting of William H. H. Bowen, John W. Dodge and John T. Jenkins, entered an order subdividing the county into four civil townships, as follows: Audubon township, commencing at the southwest corner of section 34 and southeast corner of section 33, township 78, range 35, thence north to southwest corner of the northwest quarter of section 10, same township; thence east to the southeast corner of said northwest quarter; thence north to the section line; thence east to the southeast corner of section 1, township 78, range 35; thence north to the connection line; thence west to the southeast corner of section 32, township 79, range 34; thence north to the northeast corner of section 20, township 80, range 34; thence east to the northeast corner of section 21, same township; thence north to the northeast corner of section 28, township 81, range 34; thence east to the northeast corner of section 27, same township; thence north to the northeast corner of section 22, same township; thence west to the northeast corner of section 21, same township; thence north to the northeast corner of section 9, same township; thence east to the county line; thence south to the southeast corner of township 79, range 34; thence east to the northeast corner of township 78, range 34; thence south to the southeast corner of said township; thence west to place of beginning. Exira township, commencing at the northeast corner of section 1, township 78, range 35; thence west to the southeast corner of section 32, township 79, range 34; thence north to the northeast corner of section 20, township 80, range 34; thence west to the northeast corner of section 24, township 80, range 35; thence south to the northeast corner of section 36, township 80, range 35; thence west to the northeast corner of section 34, township 80, range 35; thence north to the northeast corner of section 27, same township; thence west to the northeast corner of section 29, same township; thence north to the northeast corner of section 5, same township; thence west to northeast corner of section 3, township 80, range 36; thence south to the correction line; thence east to the northeast corner of section 1, township 78, range 36; thence south to the southeast corner of said section 1; thence east to the northeast corner of section 9, township 78, range 35; thence south to the southwest corner of the northwest quarter of section 10, same township; thence east to the southeast corner of the southwest quarter of said section 10; thence north to the section line of said section 10; thence east to the southeast corner of section 1, township 78, range 35; thence north to the place of beginning. Oakfield township, commencing at the southeast corner of section 33, township 78, range 35; thence north to the northeast corner of section 9, same town-

ship; thence west to the southwest corner of section 6, same township; thence north to the correction line; thence west to the southwest corner of section 35, township 79, range 36; thence north to the northeast corner of section 3, township 80, range 36; thence west to the northwest corner of said section; thence north to the county line; thence west to the northwest corner of the county; thence south to the correction line; thence east to the northwest corner of township 78, range 36; thence south to the southwest corner of the county; thence east to place of beginning. Leroy township, commencing at the northeast corner of Audubon county; thence south to the northeast corner of section 12, township 81, range 34; thence west to the northeast corner of section 9, same township; thence south to the northeast corner of section 21, same township; thence east to the northeast corner of section 22, same township; thence south to the northeast corner of section 27, same township; thence west to the northeast corner of section 28, same township; thence south to the northeast corner of section 21, township 80, range 34; thence west to the northeast corner of section 24, township 80, range 35; thence south to the northeast corner of section 36, same township; thence west to the southeast corner of section 27, same township; thence north to the northeast corner of said section 27; thence west to the northeast corner of section 29, same township; thence north to the northeast corner of section 5, same township; thence west to the northwest corner of section 3, same township; thence north to the county line; thence east to place of beginning.

The result of this action could not have been foreseen by the supervisors, two of whom were favorable to the best interests of Exira. They acted hastily, without proper consideration of the subject, and were overreached and misled by the plotters against Exira. Their order was a consummate blunder. The boundaries as established were unsystematic, the government township lines were ignored and without any valid reason, which was calculated to throw the records into confusion for all public use and utility. It would have required a corps of engineers to locate the limits of the several townships as thus organized. It was utterly unpractical, unsatisfactory and pleased no one, except those misguided people who rejoiced that Exira had received a "black eye." It was a ridiculous, contemptible performance, in light of subsequent events.

Two years later, when the system had been tried out, its defects seen and the wants of the people better understood, the subject came on for further consideration. The people had then been fighting fiercely over the county seat, and the building or non-building of a court house. Party

political lines, locally, were entirely wiped out. The people of Exira were hostile and indignant against all its opponents, and vice versa. The supervisors, as then constituted, were two to one against Exira. The matter came on for hearing upon the suggestion of Arthur L. Sanborn, Esq., of Viola, member of the board. O. C. Keith, of Oakfield, spoke in favor of the proposition. At that meeting the present writer appeared before the supervisors and advocated the organization of new townships according to the wishes of the people of the county, upon the system of making each government or congressional township a civil township.

April 9, 1873, the supervisors, composed of John W. Dodge, John Noon and Arthur L. Sanborn, entered the following orders in the matter: Township 78, range 36, and that part of township 78, range 35, as now lays in the civil township of Oakfield, be made the civil township of Oakfield; and all that portion of said civil township as it now exists north of the territory named be stricken from said Oakfield civil township. Township 81, range 34, and township 81, range 35, organized as the civil township of Viola. Township 81, range 36, and township 80, range 36, organized as the civil township of Douglas. Township 80, range 34, and township 80, range 35, organized as Leroy township.

As far as practical, Mr. Keith, who was a bitter partisan against Exira, but a personal friend of the writer, adopted the same view, except that he would not yield the favor to Exira township at that time; although he afterwards did so. We readily agreed together and the supervisors, being favorable to the general proposition, in a short time made their orders as appear below, with better feeling all around. All previous efforts to accommodate the business along the proposed line had failed. It was considered impractical. The Exira people hesitated about adopting the plan, but tacitly acquiesced, never to regret it so far as known. This was the inside fact of the business, and it took place in the little old county office on the east side of the public square, Exira, to the permanent benefit of the people of Audubon county. It was a move in the right direction—a big day's work.

Township 79, range 34, was organized as Greeley township. Township 79, range 35, and township 79, range 36, organized as Hamlin township. Township 78, range 34, organized as Audubon township. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, 35 and 36, in township 78, range 35, organized as Exira township. This was manifestly unfair towards Exira township and was so intended. It was

gracefully accepted in this form by Exira people, believing that the injustice would be subsequently remedied.

The following year, Isaac Thomas, one of the supervisors, caught the right idea, and emphatically declared at a meeting of the supervisors that he was in favor of making each "congregational" township a civil township. His meaning was understood, adopted and followed until the entire system was carried out.

September 8, 1874, township 80, range 34, was organized as Melville township.

October 20, 1874, township 78, range 35, organized as Exira township; township 78, range 36, organized as Oakfield township; township 81, range 35, organized as Cameron township.

September 6, 1875, township 79, range 36, organized as Sharon township.

June 5, 1876, township 81, range 36, was organized as Lincoln township.

As now organized, the civil townships of Audubon county are as follows, with dates of organization:

Audubon, township 78, range 34, April 9, 1873.

Exira, township 78, range 35, October 20, 1874.

Oakfield, township 78, range 36, October 20, 1874.

Greeley, township 79, range 34, April 9, 1873.

*Hamlin, township 79, range 35, April 9, 1873.

*Sharon, township 79, range 36, September 6, 1875.

†Melville, township 80, range 34, September 8, 1874.

†Leroy, township 80, range 35, April 9, 1873.

§Douglas, township 80, range 36, April 9, 1873.

§Lincoln, township 81, range 36, June 5, 1876.

‡Viola, township 81, range 34, April 9, 1873.

‡Cameron, township 81, range 35, October 20, 1874.

*Sharon township was severed from Hamlin, September 6, 1875:

†Melville township was severed from Leroy, September 8, 1874; §Lincoln township was severed from Douglas, June 5, 1876; ‡Cameron township was severed from Viola, October 20, 1874.

PIONEER CONDITIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

It is impossible, at this time, for people who have not experienced similar life and scenes, to realize correctly the privations and hardships

which confronted the pioneer settlers; and it is difficult to delineate by pen or picture an accurate description of what they endured. It cannot be fully accomplished. When they came here an unbroken wilderness extended north to the confines of the Arctic ocean; they were twenty miles from the borders of the most primitive civilization, without a human habitation to shelter them, not a highway or bridge on which to cross the streams within the limits of the county; only a few trails made by the Mormons. It was a wilderness, but it was a beautiful one, not a desert. The nearest grist-mills were Tam's mill, to the east, on the Coon river, or to the south, on the Nodaway river in northern Missouri, many miles distant. The nearest stores where goods, groceries and family supplies could be obtained were at Des Moines and Kaneshville (Council Bluffs), and the nearest postoffice was Des Moines.

The first demand on the settlers was to provide places of abode. They brought only a limited supply of food and provisions, also seed for starting their first crops, and the commonest articles for household use, plows and implements for farming, and a few common mechanical tools. They brought their trusty rifles, upon which to depend for defense, if necessary, and upon which to depend for venison and game to supply them with meat.

After providing their shelter, the next serious claim was a supply of food. Elk and deer were abundant, as well as many kinds of small game. To the uninitiated this may, at first thought, suggest luxurious living and a land of milk and honey, so to speak. It is far from the real fact. A taste of venison or game now and then is a dainty; but, for steady diet, it soon becomes unpalatable and tiresome. Then, a feed of bacon, salt pork or most anything for a change is delicious. Still, people can exist almost wholly on game, if it becomes a necessity.

PIONEER IMPROVEMENTS.

The first cabins were built of logs (timber was abundant) and without floors. Afterwards, floors were made of "puncheons," split from logs and hewed to place. Rock or mud and sticks were used in the construction of fireplaces and chimneys. The cooking was all done at the open fireplace, even the bread being baked before the fire in tin "reflectors," articles unseen or unheard-of by the present generation, or in Dutch ovens.

Stables then, and many years later, were built by setting forked posts in the ground, with a frame of poles for the roof, covered with wild hay, banked up with manure, as it was used, which made comfortable shelters

for stock. When they became difficult of ingress and egress, from accumulation of manure, the stable was moved, as it was cheaper and easier than to move the manure. Verily, methods of agriculture have evolutionized.

The expense of erecting buildings, breaking out and fencing farms greatly exceeded the first cost of the land; but it was done by the bone and muscle of the pioneer, which did not call for cash, a scarce item in those days. Farms, at first, were usually fenced with high, zigzag rail fences, split out from the finest oak and walnut timber. Such improvements would be an expensive luxury now; it was cheap then.

LIVE STOCK.

Hamlin and Jenkins both brought horses and cattle in 1851. As the settlers multiplied, stock increased and soon hogs and poultry became common. The Herricks, who came from near Beloit, Wisconsin, by way of Dubuque and Des Moines, brought several hundred sheep, in 1854. They were the first sheep brought to the county. "Folly" Herrick says it was his job to herd them along the ridge where John ——— now lives. Uncle "Natty Hamlin" brought a large hand-mill, which was used alternately by the neighbors for grinding corn and buckwheat. Many people grated new corn as a substitute for meal and flour.

FIRST DEATH IN THE SETTLEMENT.

The year of the first settlement had not ended when the little colony was visited by the sad affliction of death in childbirth of the wife of Philip Arthur Decker, in December, 1851, which found them wholly unprepared for the calamity. She was a daughter of the widow Hoggard and sister of John and Betsy Ann Hoggard. There was not even lumber at hand from which to make a coffin for burial of the poor lady. Then Nathaniel Hamlin, John S. Jenkins and James Kincaid (perhaps others) split out slabs from basswood timber and fashioned from it a rude box as best they could, in which they placed the body, acted as pallbearers and buried it in the field on top of the hill in the northeast quarter of section 17, now in Exira township, now owned by Julius E. Herrick. The grave has been unmarked for fifty years.

MILLS.

About 1852-3 John Countryman built a water-power saw-mill on the east bank of Troublesome creek in section 13, in what is now Exira town-

ship, near the Strahl place. It was the first power-mill of any kind in the county, and was doubtless of valuable assistance to the early settlers, in furnishing the first supply of sawed lumber produced within the county. It was of short duration, and probably went out of use when the steam saw-mills were erected in 1856 by Green and others, and by Ballard. We have failed to discover when Countryman left the county. He built the first frame house here, which he afterwards sold to Dawson Glasgow. The building of the steam-mills in 1856 were most important events, and probably did more to develop the county than any previous enterprise.

Howard Jay Green and Franklin Burnham, who came here from Maquoketa, Iowa, in 1856, were prominent in developing the business of Audubon county. They came expressly to erect and operate a steam saw-mill, and made a contract for the necessary materials and machinery therefor before coming here, as follows:

"Contract

"S. S. Vail & Company agree to furnish Green & Burnham, of Maquoketa, Jackson county, Iowa, a steam engine of ten-inch bore and twenty-inch stroke and a circular saw-mill complete, with the exception of boiler, boiler irons, sheet-iron chimney and breeching, for the sum of ten hundred and thirty-three dollars, or, provided Green & Burnham order the boiler, boiler irons, sheet-iron chimney and breeching after this date, we agree to furnish the same with the said engine and saw-mill fixtures complete for the sum of seventeen hundred dollars. Said boiler to be forty-inch diameter, fourteen-inch flues and twenty feet long. Said chimney to be twenty-six-inch diameter, fifty feet long, with breeching to match same. The above machinery to be completed on the first day of April next. Said machinery to be made in a good, substantial, workmanlike manner.

"We, the said Green & Burnham, agree to pay to S. S. Vail & Company the sum of one hundred dollars on contract and two-thirds at the time of delivery of the machinery and the remaining one-third in four months from the time of delivery.

"To this writing the different parties subscribe and agree.

"Keokuk, January 15, 1856.

"S. S. VAIL & COMPANY.

"By S. Armitage."

The huge boiler was brought up the Des Moines river from Keokuk on a small steamer to near Fort Des Moines; thence by ox teams over the

old stage road, via Hamlin's Grove, to the mill site in section 17, now in Exira township. The other machinery was shipped from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, down the Ohio river; thence up the Mississippi river to Keokuk, and then brought here by teams. It is claimed that the road through the Big Grove was specially prepared for hauling these heavy loads. Green and Burnham erected the mill themselves, assisted by Charles L. Chapin, in 1856. The three families at first lived near the mill in separate dwellings. The mill was a success from the start, and turn out something like ten thousand feet of sawed lumber a day, with its big circular saw. Green was the sawyer for many years.

About the same time, Dr. Samuel U. Ballard erected a steam saw-mill on the east side of the Botna river in the timber near his residence in section 25, in what is now Oakfield township.

About 1858 Joshua A. and Elam W. Pearl, brothers, erected a water-power saw-mill on the Botna at Oakfield. Alva B. Brown and Julius M. Hubbard were also interested in this mill. The saw-mills supplied abundance of lumber for building purposes, and the few people here then improved the opportunity by erecting frame dwellings; a few of the more enterprising ones built frame barns, and several frame school houses were built at that period. Still the people had to go a long distance to get their grain made into flour and meal. About 1859 Mr. Green, with John McConnell and Henry S. Myers, who had secured an interest in the Green & Burnham saw-mill, met the desired want by attaching a flouring-mill to their business. From that time onward the steam flour and saw-mill was one of the busy places in the county. In 1866 the town of Louisville was laid out and platted there by Nathaniel Hamlin. The mill was then owned by Nathaniel Hamlin, George T. Poage and Levi Zaner. An attempt was made that year to change the county seat to Louisville, which failed of success. It continued to remain one of the best business points in the county until the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad was put through from Des Moines to Council Bluffs in 1868. That event supplied the county with pine lumber, which was preferred rather than the native lumber for building purposes. The old mill had its day in the economy of developing this part of the country, and passed away. Its old steam boiler broke through the bridge at Panora, while being hauled away for old iron, and was dumped into the Coon river, where it found a last resting place.

CHAPTER III.

OFFICIAL ROSTER.

REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS.

John A. Kasson, Des Moines, 1863-7; Grenville M. Dodge, Council Bluffs, 1868-9; Frank W. Palmer, Des Moines, 1870-3; James W. McDill, Afton, 1874-7; William F. Sapp, Council Bluffs, 1878-81; William P. Hepburn, Clarinda, 1882-3; William H. M. Pusey, Council Bluffs, 1884-5; Joseph Lyman, Council Bluffs, 1886-9; Joseph R. Reed, Council Bluffs, 1890-1; Thomas Bowman, Council Bluffs, 1892-3; Alva L. Hager, Greenfield, 1894-9; Walter I. Smith, Council Bluffs, 1900-11; William R. Green, Audubon, 1911, to date.

JUDGES OF THE DISTRICT COURT.

E. H. Sears, Sidney, 1855-8; John H. Gray, Des Moines, 1858-65; Hugh W. Maxwell, Indianola, 1866-71; Joseph R. Reed, Council Bluffs, 1872-83; Charles F. Loofborough, Atlantic, 1884-89; James P. Conner, Denison, 1887-90; Andrew B. Thornell, Sidney, 1887 to date; Horace E. Deemer, Red Oak, 1887-92; Nathan W. Macy, Harlan, 1889-1909; Walter I. Smith, Council Bluffs, 1891-1900; William R. Green, Audubon, 1895—; Orville D. Wheeler, Council Bluffs, 1899 to date; Eugene W. Woodruff, Glenwood, 1909 to date; Thomas Arthur, Logan; Joseph B. Rockafellow, Atlantic, 1913 to date.

JUDGES OF THE CIRCUIT COURT.

Frederick Mott, Winterset, 1868-71; Thomas R. Stockton, Sidney, 1872-75; Charles F. Loofborough, Atlantic, 1876-83; Joseph Lyman, Council Bluffs, 1884; James P. Conner, Denison, 1885-6; George Carson, Council Bluffs, 1887-90.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

George Cosson, from Audubon county, 1911 to 1914.

STATE SENATORS (FROM AUDUBON COUNTY.)

Henry F. Andrews, 1892-5; George Cosson, 1909-12.

REPRESENTATIVES IN LEGISLATURE.

Daniel M. Harris, 1860-1; John A. Hallock, 1878-9; Jacob A. Overholtzer, 1882-7; William Walker, 1888-90; Albert L. Brooks, 1892-3; Marion D. Reed, 1894-5; Abner H. Edwards, 1896-7; Thomas L. Kelly, 1898-9; Asmus Boylen, 1900-3; David C. Mott, 1904-6; John C. Bonwell, 1907-10; Ole H. Jacobsen, 1911-14; Otto Witthauer, 1915.

COUNTY JUDGES.

1855, Thomas S. Lewis; 1856-9, Daniel M. Harris; 1860-3, Appolonius B. Houston; 1864-5, Isaac P. Hallock; 1866, John S. Jenkins; 1867, John R. Thacker; 1868-9, Amherst Heath; 1869, Henry F. Andrews; 1869, Albert I. Brainard. The office was abolished, to take effect December 31, 1869.

TREASURERS AND RECORDERS.

1855, Miles Beers; 1856-63, Nathaniel Hamlin; 1864-65, Carlos E. Frost. The offices of treasurer and recorder were separated in 1864.

CLERKS OF COURT.

1855-6, John W. Beers; 1857-60, Franklin Burnham; 1861-2, Richard Gault; 1863-4, John A. Hallock; 1865, George W. Cannon (A. B. Houston, deputy); 1866-8, Albert I. Brainard; 1869-70, John W. Scott; 1871-2, H. Ransford; 1873, Thomas Walker; 1873-8, Monzo L. Campbell; 1879-84, Frank P. Bradley; 1885-6, Robert J. Hunter; 1887-94, Charles H. Vail; 1895-6, Joseph F. Garnett; 1897-1900, Harry D. Woodward; 1901-4, Lester J. Hill; 1905-8, Charles S. White; 1909-12, Lewis A. McGinnis; 1913 to date, Frank M. Rice.

COUNTY ATTORNEYS.

1887-90, Henry W. Hanna; 1891-4, Richard C. Carpenter; 1895-6, William Wonn; 1897-8, Frank E. Brainard; 1899-1900, James M. Graham;

1901-4, Fred H. Blume; 1905-6, George Cosson; 1907-8, James M. Graham; 1909-12, Halleck J. Mantz; 1913 to date, John A. Graham.

COUNTY AUDITORS.

1870-1, Albert I. Brainard; 1872-5, Hubert S. Wattles; 1876-81, Thomas Walker; 1882-5, William F. Stotts; 1886-9, John H. Rendleman; 1890-2, Frank P. Rees; 1893-6, John E. McGuire; 1897-8, Thomas Lohner; 1899-1904, August F. Greenwaldt; 1905-8, Orrin B. Train; 1909-10, Edward B. Cousins; 1911-4, Otto Witthauer; 1915, Harry A. Northup.

COUNTY TREASURERS.

1866-9, Appolonius B. Houston; 1870-3, Charles Van Gorder; 1874-7, William F. Stotts; 1878-81, Daniel W. Harris; 1882-5, Ethelbert J. Freeman; 1886-7, William F. Stotts; 1888-91, John B. Doak; 1892-3, John C. Dawson; 1893 (October), John B. Doak; 1894-9, Lewis D. Phelps; 1900-7, Charles E. Breniman; 1907-10, George E. Kellogg; 1911-2, Howard E. Kittell; 1913 to date, Martin E. Mortensen.

COUNTY RECORDERS.

1865-6, John Crane; 1867-8, Henry F. Andrews; 1869-70, William F. Stotts; 1870-2, Alonzo L. Campbell; 1873-4, Emerson H. Kimball; 1875-6, John S. Toft; 1877-80, John M. Crocker; 1881-4, Samuel P. Rhoades; 1885-6, Otto Witthauer; 1887-90, Adelbert L. Weaver; 1891-4, Timothy H. Beason; 1895-6, John H. Scott; 1897-1900, Martin N. Esbeck; 1901-4, O. C. Donaldson; 1905-8, Ed Wood; 1909-12, Lars C. Christoffersen; 1913 to date, Clarice Oelke.

SHERIFFS.

1855-6, Benjamin M. Hiatt; 1857-9, Charles L. Chapin; 1860-3, Urbane Herrick; 1864-5, Elam W. Pearl; 1866-7, Andrew J. Leffingwell; 1868-9, John Huntley; 1870, Samuel R. Thomas; 1870-1, Lysannius M. Anderson; 1872-5, John B. Counrardy; 1876-9, Joseph L. Stotts; 1880-5, Henry B. Herbert; 1886-9, William Mallory; 1890-5, William S. Armstrong; 1896-9, John H. Jones; 1900-3, Fern L. Anderson; 1904-8, William Northup; 1909-12, Walkup M. Crees; 1913 to date, Charles Sunberg.

SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS.

1859-60, Levi B. Montgomery; 1861-3, Robert N. Day; 1864-5, Boynton G. Dodge; 1866-7, Benjamin F. Thomas; 1868-9, Boynton G. Dodge; 1870-1, David B. Beers; 1872-3, John Hunter; 1874-5, Harmon G. Smith; 1876-7, Benjamin F. Thacker; 1878-9, Albert K. Brainard; 1880-3, Robert M. Carpenter; 1884-9, Charles F. Willcutt; 1890-7, David P. Repass; 1898-9, Robert C. Spencer; 1900-6, Arthur Farquhar; 1907 to date, Ella M. Stearns.

COUNTY SURVEYORS.

1855, John W. Beers; 1856-75, Peoria I. Whitted; 1876-7, Robert T. Smart; 1878-9, Luther C. Frost; 1880-3, Hubert S. Wattles; 1884-5, Luther C. Frost; 1886-7, Hubert S. Wattles; 1888-9, Julius M. Hill; 1890-3, David B. Beers; 1894-1906, Hubert S. Wattles; 1907, Peoria I. Whitted; 1907-10, Carl D. Forsbeck. The office was discontinued in 1910.

County engineer, Carl D. Forsbeck, 1910 to date.

CORONERS.

1862, Albert I. Brainard; 1885, James Holliday; 1886-7, W. D. Blackwood; 1880-9, Daniel G. Lass; 1890-1, Albert L. Brooks; 1892, John H. Rippey; 1893, Christian Eger; 1894-9, William R. Koob; 1900-2, A. R. Herseman; 1903-4, Charles W. Baker; 1905-8, Nels C. Jensen; 1909-14, Arthur C. Harmon; 1915, John C. Newlon.

SOLDIER RELIEF COMMISSION.

Charles Van Gorder, Harper W. Wilson and William H. Bowman.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

1861, Julius M. Hubbard; 1862, Boynton G. Dodge; 1863, Boynton G. Dodge, Julius M. Hubbard, Carlos E. Frost; 1864, Boynton G. Dodge, Joshua A. Pearl, Nathaniel Hamlin; 1865, Albert I. Brainard, Joshua A. Pearl, Nathaniel Hamlin; 1866, Isaac V. D. Lewis, Stillman H. Perry, Washington Bartlett; 1867, Isaac V. D. Lewis, Stillman H. Perry, Washington Bartlett; 1868, Isaac Thomas, David L. Anderson, Washington Bartlett; 1869, Isaac Thomas, Jacob Andrews, Washington Bartlett; 1870, Isaac Thomas, Jacob Andrews (resigned), Joshua A. Pearl; 1871, John W. Dodge,

William H. H. Bowen, John T. Jenkins; 1872, John W. Dodge, William H. H. Bowen, John Noon; 1873, John W. Dodge, Arthur L. Sanborn, John Noon; 1874, Isaac Thomas, Arthur L. Sanborn, John Noon; 1875, Isaac Thomas, Arthur L. Sanborn, John Noon; 1876, Isaac Thomas, S. A. Miller, John Noon; 1877, James Davis, S. A. Miller, John Noon; 1878, James Davis, S. A. Miller, John T. Jenkins, 1879, James Davis, Samuel A. Graham, John T. Jenkins; 1880, William E. Hensley, Samuel A. Graham, John T. Jenkins; 1881, William E. Hensley, Samuel A. Graham, Benjamin F. Jenkins. Boynton G. Dodge appointed to fill vacancy; 1882, William E. Hensley, Samuel A. Graham, Benjamin F. Jenkins (Jenkins died and Isaac P. Hallock appointed to fill vacancy); 1883, William E. Hensley, Samuel A. Graham, Isaac P. Hallock; 1884, William E. Hensley, Samuel A. Graham, Thomas J. Essington; 1885, William E. Hensley, Sparks P. Baker, Thomas J. Essington; 1886, George McCain, Sparks P. Baker, Thomas J. Essington; 1887, George McCain, Sparks P. Baker, Jasper Jensen (McCain resigned and Andrew F. Armstrong appointed to fill vacancy); 1888, Andrew F. Armstrong, Samuel Minser, Jasper Jensen; 1889, Andrew F. Armstrong, Samuel Minser, Jasper Jensen; 1890, Andrew F. Armstrong, Samuel Minser, Philip Bickelhaupt; 1891, Andrew F. Armstrong, Oscar Hunt, Philip Bickelhaupt; 1892, Peter Mathisen, Oscar Hunt, Philip Bickelhaupt; 1893, Peter Mathisen, Oscar Hunt, David W. Mathias; 1894, Peter Mathisen, Samuel F. Garmire, Daniel W. Mathias; 1895, Nels P. Hoegh, Samuel F. Garmire, Daniel W. Mathias; 1896, Nels P. Hoegh, Samuel F. Garmire, William D. Stanley; 1897, Nels P. Hoegh, Samuel F. Garmire, William D. Stanley; 1898, Nels P. Hoegh, Samuel F. Garmire, William D. Stanley; 1899, Nels P. Hoegh, Samuel F. Garmire, Jerome Shingledecker; 1900, Nels P. Hoegh, John C. Bonwell, Jerome Shingledecker; 1901, Nels P. Hoegh, John C. Bonwell, Jerome Shingledecker; 1902, Nels P. Hoegh, John C. Bonwell, Jerome Shingledecker; 1903, Nels P. Hoegh, John C. Bonwell, Jerome Shingledecker; 1904, Nathaniel D. Hamlin, John C. Bonwell, Jerome Shingledecker; 1905, Nathaniel D. Hamlin, John C. Bonwell, Fred D. Searles; 1906, Nathaniel D. Hamlin, John C. Bonwell, Fred D. Searles; 1907, Martin N. Esbeck, George M. Ross, Fred D. Searles; 1908, Martin N. Esbeck, George M. Ross, Fred D. Searles; 1909, Martin N. Esbeck, George M. Ross, Fred D. Searles; 1910, Samuel McGaffin, George M. Ross, Fred D. Searles; 1911, Samuel McGaffin, George M. Ross, Edwin F. Johnson; 1912, Samuel McGaffin, Daniel D. Sampson, Edwin F. Johnson; 1913, Riley P. Clark, Daniel D. Sampson, Edwin F. Johnson; 1914, Riley P. Clark, Daniel D. Sampson, Edwin F. Johnson; 1915, Riley P. Clark, Edwin F. Johnson, Benjamin J. Black.

CHAPTER IV.

SETTLEMENT OF AUDUBON COUNTY.

BEFORE THE SETTLEMENT.

There was very little evidence that white men had visited this vicinity before Hamlin and Jenkins settled here in the year 1851. Possibly, hunters and trappers had been here; it would have been remarkable if they had not, but, if so, they left little evidence of it.

When the Mormons abandoned Nauvoo, Illinois, many of them crossed Iowa to Kanesville, now Council Bluffs, in the year 1846. Some of them settled at Indian Town and Ironiston, west of Lewis, and also farther north in Shelby and Harrison counties. There is still an early Mormon settlement at Galland's Grove, in the northwest part of Shelby county.

One of the Mormon trails crossed Troublesome creek where Nathaniel Hamlin settled, which, undoubtedly, was the cause that led to the selection of his claim there. Another Mormon trail crossed this county near the site of the present poor farm. It is supposed that the Mormons dropped the seed there which gave the name to Blue Grass Grove and to the creek of the same name. Still another Mormon trail crossed the county through the north parts of Viola, Cameron and Lincoln townships. The last two named trails would have been on the direct route from Nauvoo to Galland's Grove and vicinity, where the Mormon's settled. None of them settled in this county, except John S. Johnston, who came here in 1855 and who had been a Mormon. The purpose of the Mormons was to continue their exodus beyond the Missouri river. After going on to Utah, many of them became disgusted with polygamy and returned to Shelby county and vicinity. While enumerating the United States census in 1870, the writer found one of them in Shelby county named Joseph Hancock, then seventy years of age, who claimed to be a grandson of John Hancock, the patriot governor of Massachusetts.

The United States government surveyors had been here and surveyed the lines of township 78, in the year 1849. Possibly Hamlin and Jenkins had found some of the posts of that survey and the first settlers

may have selected their claims from that survey. It is certain that Hamlin, Jenkins, Decker, Powell, Mrs. Hoggard and Doctor Ballard selected their claims nearly conformable to the section lines as afterwards surveyed.

FIRST SETTLEMENT.

Early in 1851, Nathaniel Hamlin, James Hamlin, William Powell, David Edgerton and Samuel Ogden went from Mahaska county to Kaneshville, now Council Bluffs, Iowa, then a new Mormon settlement. Nathaniel Hamlin then lived in the extreme northwest part of Mahaska county. It is supposed their route was through Marion, Warren, Madison, Adair, Cass and Pottawattamie counties. They were in quest of new homes, and, after reaching Kaneshville, they traveled up the east side of the Missouri river, but, not finding desirable locations, decided to return. In their exodus from Nauvoo, Illinois, to western Iowa, the Mormons had made what were called Mormon trails. One of those trails was taken on their return from Kaneshville and was followed back to the Nishna Botna river near Lewis, Iowa, thence up the river and up Troublesome creeek, where they made a crossing. The water was high and they first crossed the creek, one at a time, in a feed box taken from off the wagon, and camped where Nathaniel afterward settled. It was in the month of March, 1851. Possibly they had learned from the Mormons of the fine, valuable groves of timber in this vicinity, and they may have discovered some of the government surveyor's work on the new township lines, which induced them to afterwards settle here; but they do not appear to have then discovered the "Big Grove" on the Nishna Botna.

The locality pleased Nathaniel Hamlin and he staked off a claim adjacent to the Mormon trail, where he decided to make his future home. This was the initial act of the first settlement of the county. At that time there was not a white settler within twenty miles of the spot selected by Mr. Hamlin. The party returned to Mahaska county, and Mr. Hamlin made preparations for his removal to his claim. Taking his eldest child, Mary, ten years of age, leaving the remainder of the family behind, they, with seven yoke of work oxen, wagon, implements and tools for labor and provisions, started for his distant claim amongst the wild animals and wilder men. He was accompanied by his brother, William P. Hamlin, and Philip Arthur Decker, without their families, and by the brother-in-law and sister-in-law of Decker, John and Betsey Ann Hoggard, young unmarried people. When they reached Winterset, Iowa, they met and made the acquaintance of John S. Jenkins and family, composed of his wife, Malinda, and children, Benjamin, John, Sarah,

Isaac, Harriet and George, who were traveling westward in search of a new home. Mr. Hamlin told Jenkins about this place, its beautiful, fertile soil, and noble groves of timber, and invited him to come and view it himself. Mr. Jenkins decided to do so. On May 6 the little colony, with stout hearts, willing hands and a hopeful future, reached the claim of Mr. Hamlin and the first permanent settlement of Audubon county was an accomplished fact.

Isaac Jenkins once told the writer that he was then a small lad (about eight years old) and that the next morning after their arrival, "Uncle Natty" commenced cutting logs for his cabin, and that he, Isaac, hauled them together with his father's yoke of stags, called "Buck" and "Brandy." After erecting his log cabin, with Mary to drive the team, Mr. Hamlin broke out forty acres of prairie land, which he planted in sod corn, and amongst which he sowed seven acres of buckwheat and planted some potatoes and turnips. The land was not then surveyed, but Mr. Hamlin's claim afterward proved to be situated in section 35, in what is now Exira township, a selection of first-class prairie and timber land. To this he afterward added many other acres.

We are indebted to John T. Jenkins, Esq., of Brayton, the only survivor of the Jenkins family, for some facts concerning the first settlement. He says that when they arrived at Hamlin's claim, Troublesome creek was overflowing its banks. The next morning his father felled and lodged a tree against another tree on the opposite bank and "crooned over" on the fallen tree. His horse was led with a long rope and swam the river. Then he mounted his horse and rode over to where the town of Oakfield is now situated and selected a claim for his home at the "big spring" in the timber, in section 20, now in Exira township. To mark the site of his claim, he blazed a basswood tree and wrote on it: "This is my claim."

Mr. Decker selected a claim in section 17, now in Exira township, where Boy Herrick now resides. The Hoggards settled in section 26, where Isaac Lewis afterward resided many years. William P. Hamlin immediately settled in section 6, in what is now Benton township, Cass county, at the same place afterward occupied many years by Almond Goodale. Later, Mr. Hamlin settled on Buck creek, in Cass county, afterward known as the Barney Harris place. In 1860 he moved to Exira, where he lived many years. William Powell came the same year and settled in section 3, where Ad. Seibert now lives.

An important addition to the new settlement, the same year, was Dr. Samuel M. Ballard, a wealthy man for that period, and a physician, then residing at Iowa City. I was often entertained years ago by his graphic recitals of early times and events in this county. He was a rare story teller.

One event in connection with the early settlement is particularly apropos—his first meeting with “Uncle” John Jenkins. The doctor said that he had heard of the fine land and timber on the Botna river in this county and decided to examine it personally. He had also heard of the settlement here of Mr. Jenkins, and, securing direction as to his place of abode, started afoot and alone from Lewis to find the place. After traveling many miles, he reached the foot of the hill south of the present town of Oakfield and supposed he was near the place sought, and there discovered a new path leading north into the timber. Soon he saw some white children, who fled at his approach. Continuing his way, he soon met a man with a rifle, who demanded of him: “Are you for peace, or are you for war?” “I replied,” said the doctor, “I feel very peaceful at this time, and I have been traveling since morning and am getting hungry. I am wanting to find a man named Jenkins, who I suppose lives somewhere in this vicinity.” The doctor introduced himself, and Mr. Jenkins invited him to his cabin and provided refreshments. Then the doctor explained the object of his visit; that he was seeking a tract of prairie and timber land for himself, and that what he had seen suited him if he could secure it. Mr. Jenkins informed him that the rules of the Settlers’ Club provided that no individual could take a claim for more than one hundred and sixty acres of land. But the doctor expressed a desire to obtain a greater amount. At that period the government land was not in market and had not been surveyed. The settlers were clubbed together to make rules and regulations regarding individual claims and for mutually protecting them. The doctor suggested the advisability of having a physician in the settlement, also the propriety of having a man possessed of wealth among them to assist in developing the country, etc. And he told the story of a once famous doctor, who, on sending his pupil out to practice medicine on his own account, gave this advice: “If you shall ever discover in your practice that you can do the patient no good, be sure that you do no harm.” The story is too long and too awfully funny to relate here. But the doctor averred that if he did settle here he would endeavor to do the people no harm. The subject was discussed among the few settlers, who consented to make an exception in the case of Doctor Ballard and to allow him to select his claim as proposed, and to protect him in it. The result was that he secured the beautiful tracts of prairie and timber lands since known as the Ballard estate in Exira and Oakfield townships and adjoining in Cass county.

John M. Donnel came in 1851, or soon after, and lived in the vicinity of Hamlin’s Grove many years. He drove the mail hack in early days from the east to Hamlin’s Grove.

After Mr. Hamlin had finished his breaking and put in his crops, he returned to Mahaska county, closed out his business there and returned with his family, consisting of his wife, Margaret (Aunt Peggy), and children, Mary, Hannah, Rose, Melinda and W. Allan. They arrived here on September 13, 1851. With them came the widow Hoggard, the mother of John and Betsey Ann, and the wife of Philip Arthur Decker. Probably John Hoggard and Decker went back to Mahaska county for their people with Mr. Hamlin. Benjamin and Isaac Jenkins went back with an ox team at or about the same time, to move the family of William P. Hamlin to Cass county.

There has been contention as to who was the first settler, Nathaniel Hamlin or John S. Jenkins. The honors are easy. Hamlin was here and made his claim in March, 1851, and followed it by actual settlement on May 6, 1851. He built the first cabin and broke out his land the same season and his family came on September 13, 1852. Jenkins came May 6, 1851, and decided to settle and made his claim not earlier than May 7. His family came with him, so they were actually the first family settled in the county. Hamlin himself must be held to be the first actual settler here.

SETTLERS WHO CAME BEFORE 1861.

The following is the list of settlers who came to Audubon county before 1861, with places of residence and dates of settlement: David L. Anderson and family, Exira, 1855; William S. Anderson, Exira, 1855; Lysanius M. Anderson, Exira, 1855; John A. Anderson, Exira, 1855; Samuel Anderson, Exira, 1855; Adelbert Anderson, Exira, 1855; Norman Archer and family, Oakfield, 1855; W. Herbert Archer, Oakfield, 1855; Thomas Archer, Oakfield, 1855; Alonzo N. Arnold and wife, Oakfield, 1855; Rev. Baker and family, Dayton, 1855; Dr. Samuel M. Ballard, Oakfield, 1851; Osceola R. Ballard, Oakfield, 1852; Byron Ballard, Oakfield, 1852; William F. Ballard and family, Oakfield, 1855; Darius Barlow and wife, Exira, 1857; Peter B. Barlow, Oakfield, —; Washington Bartlett, Oakfield, 1856; Lee L. Bartlett, Oakfield, 1857; Hiram M. Beck and family, Hamlin's Grove, 1856; William P. Beck, Hamlin's Grove, 1856; Miles Beers and family, Oakfield, 1854; John W. Beers, Oakfield, 1854; David B. Beers, Oakfield, 1854; Bradley Beers and family, Oakfield, 1857; Avery Belcher, Hamlin's Grove, 1857; James W. Benedict and family, Dayton, 1855; Elijah Birge and family, Troublesome, 1856; James M. Blackmar and family, Exira, 1857; William H. H. Bowen and family, Hamlin's Grove, 1853; John Bowen, Hamlin's

Grove, 1853; Hugh L. Bowen, Hamlin's Grove, 1853; Erasmus D. Bradley and family, Oakfield, 1855; Albert I. Brainard and family, Exira, 1860; J. C. Brown, Hamlin's Grove, 1860; James M. Brown and family, Oakfield, 1856; Franklin Burnham and family, Big Grove, 1856; Silas D. Burns, Oakfield, 1860; John D. Bush, Exira, 1856; Deacon Lyman Bush, Exira, 1857; Mrs. Mary Bush (wife), Exira, 1858; William S. Bush and family, Exira, 1858; Mrs. Maria D. Butler, Oakfield, 1860; John Calder, Hamlin's Grove, 1854; George Calder, Hamlin's Grove, 1854; Stephen T. Campbell and family, Oakfield, about 1855-56; George W. Cannon, Hamlin's Grove, 1855; Reuben Carpenter and family, Hamlin's Grove, 1852; William Carpenter, Hamlin's Grove, 1852; Elijah Carpenter, Hamlin's Grove, 1852; George Carpenter, Hamlin's Grove, 1852; John Carpenter, Hamlin's Grove, 1852; Henry Carpenter, Hamlin's Grove, 1852; David A. Carpenter, Hamlin's Grove, 1852; W. S. Carter, Big Grove, 1855; Charles L. Chapin and family, Big Grove, 1856; John Countryman and family, Troublesome, 1852; Daniel Crane and family, Exira, 1855; John Crane, Exira, 1855; VanBeuren Crane, Exira, 1855; John W. Davis, Exira, 1860; Robert N. Day and family, Oakfield, 1857; Stephen Deborde, David's Creek, before 1856; Philip A. Decker and family, Big Grove, 1851; Boynton G. Dodge and family, Exira, 1856; John W. Dodge, Exira, 1856; James B. Donnel, Hamlin's Grove, 1854; James H. Donnel, Hamlin's Grove, 1854; John M. Donnel, Hamlin's Grove, 1851; Henry T. Eagan, Hamlin's Grove, 1855; James Eagan, Hamlin's Grove, 1855; Samuel Eagan, Hamlin's Grove, 1855; Leonard Earley and family, Exira, 1859; Joseph Eaton, Big Grove, 1856; Alfred Eddy, Big Grove, 1856; David Edgerton and family, Exira, 1852; Zel Edgerton, Exira, 1857; William B. Felch and family, Exira, after 1856; J. Lyman Frost, Hamlin's Grove, 1853; Carlos E. Frost and family, Hamlin's Grove, 1853; Mr. Gage, Exira, 1853; Richard Gault, Hamlin's Grove, 1854; Dawson Glasgow and family, Hamlin's Grove, 1856; Edward Gingery, Oakfield, 1855; A. M. Graves, Oakfield, about 1856; Howard J. Green and family, Big Grove, 1855; Isaac P. Hallock, Sr., and family, Oakfield, 1856; Richard S. Hallock and family, Oakfield, 1856; John A. Hallock, Oakfield, 1856; Isaac P. Hallock, Jr., Oakfield, 1856; Nathaniel Hamlin and family, Hamlin's Grove, 1851; William P. Hamlin and family, Exira, 1860; John Hammer, Exira, 1860; Andrew M. Hardy and family, Big Grove, 1859; George W. Hardy, Big Grove, 1859; Daniel M. Harris and family, Hamlin's Grove, 1854; William J. Harris, Hamlin's Grove, 1854; Daniel W. Harris, Hamlin's Grove, 1854; Asa Haskins, Exira, 1857; Amherst Heath and family, Oakfield, 1857; Hiram Heath and family, Oakfield, 1857; Mark Heath and family, Oakfield, 1852; Milton

Heath and family, Oakfield, 1852; Hiram Heath 2d, Oakfield, 1852; Alvin Herrick and family, Big Grove, 1853; Urbane Herrick and family, Big Grove, 1853; Edson Herrick, Big Grove, 1854; Augustus C. Herrick, Big Grove, 1854; Coit Herrick, Big Grove, 1854; Curtis Herrick, Big Grove, 1854; Elisha D. Herrick, Big Grove, 1854; Emerson Herrick, Big Grove, 1854; Judson D. Herrick, Big Grove, 1854; Benjamin M. Hyatt and family, Oakfield, 1852; William H. Hyatt, Oakfield, 1852; Alexander High, Oakfield, about 1855; Franklin Hobbs, Exira, 1855; Mercy Hobbs (wife), Exira, 1856; Moses Hockman, Hamlin's Grove, 1855; Samuel Hockman, Hamlin's Grove, 1855; Mrs. Hoggard, Hamlin's Grove, 1851; Betsey A. Hoggard, Hamlin's Grove, 1851; John Hoggard, Hamlin's Grove, 1851; William Holcraft, Troublesome, 1855; Samuel B. Hopkins and family, Oakfield, 1853; A. B. Houston and family, Hamlin's Grove, 1856; Henry B. Houston, Hamlin's Grove, 1856; Oswald J. Houston, Hamlin's Grove, 1856; Samuel Howlett and family, Oakfield, 1860; James Howlett and family, Oakfield, 1860; Samuel Howlett, Jr., Oakfield, 1860; Samuel Howlett, 3d, Oakfield, 1860; Lambert Howlett, Oakfield, 1860; Julius M. Hubbard and family, Oakfield, 1857; Ludwig Hummel and wife, Troublesome, before 1857; Walter J. Jardine and family, Big Grove, 1853; Lyman Jardine, Big Grove, 1853; John S. Jenkins and family, Oakfield, 1851; Benjamin F. Jenkins, Oakfield, 1851; John T. Jenkins, Oakfield, 1851; Isaac H. Jenkins, Oakfield, 1851; George Jenkins, Oakfield, 1851; Samuel Johnson, Exira, 1856; John S. Johnston and family, Big Grove, 1855; Giles N. Jones and family, Oakfield, 1856; James M. Jones and family, Oakfield, 1856; Orlin E. Jones, Oakfield, 1856; George L. Kellogg, Big Grove, 1856; Charles Kemp, Big Grove, 1856; Reuben C. Kenyon, Exira, 1855; Alexander Kincaid and family, Big Grove, 1855; James Kincaid and family, Big Grove, 1855; Henry K. Kincaid, Big Grove, 1855; Joseph S. Kirk and family, Big Grove, 1855; Andrew J. Leffingwell and family, Big Grove, 1860; Horace F. Leffingwell and family, Big Grove, 1856; William Leffingwell, Big Grove, 1856; Mrs. Sarah G. Lewis, Hamlin's Grove, 1854; Richard M. Lewis and family, Hamlin's Grove, 1854; Thomas S. Lewis and family, Hamlin's Grove, 1854; Isaac V. D. Lewis and family, Hamlin's Grove, 1854; Charles E. Marsh, Hamlin's Grove, 1855; Walter Marsh, Hamlin's Grove, 1855; John McConnell, Big Grove, 1856; Allen McDonnel, Troublesome, 1855; Rev. Richard C. Meek and wife, Big Grove, 1855; Bryant Milliman and wife, Exira, 1854; Levi B. Montgomery and family, Exira, 1856; William N. Montgomery, 1856; George S. Montgomery, Exira, 1856; John W. Montgomery, Exira, 1856; Joel B. Montgomery, Exira, 1856; Eli Montgomery, Exira, 1856; Levi J. Montgomery, Exira,

1856; James Mounts, Big Grove, 1855; Henry S. Myers, Big Grove, about 1859; William N. Nelson, Exira, 1856; Mrs. Margaret Nelson, Exira, 1857; William C. Norton and family, Oakfield, 1856; John C. Norton, Oakfield, 1856; Charles H. Norton, Oakfield, 1856; Robert A. Oliphant, Hamlin's Grove, 1854; Ozro Othout, Oakfield, 1856; William Pangburn, Exira, 1859; Dennis Parmeley and family, Troublesome, 1854; Richard F. Parmeley, Troublesome, 1854; Lemuel Parmeley, Troublesome, 1854; John Patterson and family, Big Grove, 1856; James Patterson, Big Grove, 1856; Elam W. Pearl, Oakfield, 1857; Joshua A. Pearl, Oakfield, 1857; Hiram Perkins, Exira, 1855; Stillman H. Perry and family, Exira, 1859; Zelotes A. Phelps, Troublesome, about 1856; James B. Pixler, Audubon township, 1859; James Poor, Hamlin's Grove, 1857; Joseph Porter and family, Oakfield, after 1856; William Powell and family, Exira, 1851; W. Scott Rice, Oakfield, 1860; Robert Robinson and family, Exira, 1859; William Robinson, Exira, 1859; James Robinson, Exira, 1859; John Robinson, Exira, 1859; Hamilton Robinson, Exira, 1859; Lewis Robinson, Exira, 1859; Palmer Rogers and family, Exira, 1856; Thomas T. Rogers and family, Oakfield, 1857; Meridith Rowland, Big Grove, 1857; Thomas A. Rowland, Oakfield, 1856; Michael Scharff, Hamlin's Grove, 1855; John Seiford and family, Big Grove, 1853; Harry D. Shelley, Oakfield, 1860; William Shirley, Big Grove, 1854; Reverend Spooner, Big Grove, 1860; Brad. Spurling, Exira, 1853; George W. Sharp and family, Exira, 1856; Samuel Smith and family, Oakfield, 1854; William F. Smith, Oakfield, 1854; James S. Smith, Oakfield, 1854; John F. Smith, Oakfield, 1854; Samuel Smith, Jr., Oakfield, 1854; Samuel Smith, David's Creek, 1856; Hendrick R. Smith, David's Creek, 1856; William F. E. Smith, David's Creek, 1856; Andrew Smith, David's Creek, 1856; Oliver Smith, Troublesome, 1858-9; Robert Stansberry and family, Big Grove, 1854; William B. Stone, Big Grove, 1853; Colbert Strahl and family, Oakfield, 1855; Barzilla Sylvester, Exira, 1856; George W. Taylor and family, Big Grove, 1855; John R. Thacker and family, Big Grove, 1856; Isaac Thomas, Hamlin's Grove, 1860; William Thompson and family, Exira, 1856; Thomas Truman, Exira, 1858-9; Charles Van Gorder, Exira, 1860; John J. Van Houghton, Hamlin's Grove, 1860; Asahel Wakeman, 1860; William Walker, Troublesome, 1855; Chauncey E. Ward, Big Grove, 1856; C. Dwight West, Big Grove, 1854; Peoria I. Whitted, Hamlin's Grove, 1853; William Wiggins and family, Big Grove, 1855; Nathaniel Wiggins and family, Big Grove, 1855; Charles Wiggins, Big Grove, about 1860; Whitman Wilcox and family, Hamlin's Grove, after 1856; John Wilcox,

Hamlin's Grove, after 1856; Mr. Wilkins, ———, —; Mr. Wilkinson, ———, 1853; Joseph J. Williams and family, Brushy, 1859; George Wire, ———, 1855; George Wise and family, Oakfield, 1855.

In some instances in the foregoing list, the dates of settlement are given as before the respective towns were actually laid out and platted. In such instances, the intention is to say that the parties settled at or near where these towns were afterward located, respectively.

The following is a list of old settlers who came before 1861 and now reside here, with places of residence and dates of settlement: Lysanius M. Anderson, Audubon, 1855; Mrs. Nettie Bartlett, Hamlin township, 1855; David B. Beers, Brayton, 1854; Frank Beers, Greely township, 1857; Mrs. Mary I. Crane, Exira, 1854; Arthur Dodge, Hamlin township, 1855; Mrs. Catherine L. Gearheart, Brayton, 1857; Mrs. Hannah M. Hawk, Exira, 1851; Hiram Heath, Exira, 1852; Lewis C. Heath, Brayton, 1857; Judson D. Herrick, Exira, 1854; Mrs. Mary B. Hicks, Exira, 1856; John T. Jenkins, Brayton, 1851; Mrs. Darthula Jenkins, Brayton, 1857; Irving Jones, Exira township, 1856; George Leffingwell, West Exira, 1860; Elbert M. Lewis, Exira township, 185 ; Isaac V. D. Lewis, Exira township, 1854; Mrs. Jane Milliman, Exira, 1854; William H. Milliman, Exira, 1855; Mrs. Malinda C. Radcliff, Exira township, 1851; Horatio W. Rogers, Exira township, 1857; Hendrick R. Smith, Exira, 1856; Mrs. Ella M. Temple, Exira township, 185 ; Charles Van Gorder, Audubon, 1860; C. Dwight West, Hamlin township, 1854; Mrs. Louisa C. Whitted, Exira, 1856.

THE HOMESTEADERS.

The "homestead" excitement of 1870 to 1880 was an era which brought many new people to Audubon county, who would not otherwise have settled here. The facts were substantially these: The title to the lands afterwards embraced in Iowa, was vested in the United States by the Louisiana Purchase from France in 1803, and so remained when Iowa was admitted a state in 1845, except a few small grants, notably Dubuque, etc., made by Spain before the Louisiana Purchase.

In 1856 Congress granted large amounts of land in Iowa to aid in the construction of railroads. One of those grants was for a railroad from Davenport to Council Bluffs, made to the Mississippi & Missouri Railroad Company. It gave to the company all land not then already disposed of, in odd numbered sections on each side of the proposed route for six miles, or not to exceed fifteen miles. The grant was in the nature of a float, the title not

fully vested, but conditioned upon future acts of the government, and of their compliance by the proposed railroad company. The principal requirements were the survey of the proposed route, the selection of their lands, and the building of the road. The survey was soon made by Granville M. Dodge, of Council Bluffs, who is still living, and passed through the town of Exira. It was called the Dodge survey. The lands were promptly selected in conformity with the survey. Afterwards, the rights of the Mississippi & Missouri Company were transferred to the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad Company. A new survey was made, deflecting south from the original line, the new line running from what is now the town of Adair, by way of what is now Atlantic, thence on to Council Bluffs. The new line was about thirteen miles south of Exira. A new and additional grant of land was made by Congress to further aid in construction of the road, giving to the company all lands not previously disposed of, for twenty miles on each side of the route.

The railroad was completed through to Council Bluffs on the new route in 1869, and the lands were certified by the government to the company in conformity with the grants.

It was disclosed by the survey and selection of the lands, that most of the government lands across Iowa along the route of the proposed road, had already been disposed of at the time the grants were made. The bulk of the lands actually selected for the company were found to be located in Audubon and Shelby counties.

About 1870, a lawyer, named Joseph A. Straight, a pleasant, accomplished gentleman, located at Exira. He conceived the opinion that the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad Company had forfeited its right to the grants in question in so far as they related to lands lying more than twenty miles from the line of the road as actually constructed. His opinion was promulgated and caught like wildfire; people here and from abroad adopted and acted upon it, and by the hundreds rushed to secure the unoccupied railroad lands as homesteads. They settled and built upon the lands and proceeded to improve and convert them into farms and homes. It was the prominent theme of business in the northern portion of the county for several years. Actions were brought against the so-called "homesteaders" to eject them from the lands. George W. Capron came here from Illinois, bought land from the railroad company, partially improved and built a house upon it, then sold the house which was removed, and returned to Illinois. Three forty-acre tracts of his land were settled on by William Emery, H. P. Emery and Robert Campbell, respectively, who sought to hold the lands as

homesteads. Here was a dilemma. Capron did not desire to lose his property and could not recover his purchase money from the railroad company until he was legally ousted from the land. So he reluctantly brought actions in 1874 against each of the parties to eject them from his lands. The case of George W. Capron vs. William Emery involved the title to the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 27, township 80, range 35, and was the first of the many homestead cases. It was tried by a jury, before Hon. T. R. Stockton, circuit judge, and decree was entered for plaintiff, October 1, 1874. The other two cases were decided in favor of plaintiff. H. F. Andrews was attorney for plaintiff, assisted by Thomas S. Wright on behalf of the railroad company. Charles D. Gray was attorney for defendants.

The contention of plaintiff in these cases was that the conditions in the grants to the railroad company, which had not been actually performed by the company, had been waived by implication by the government, and that the title to the lands had fully vested in the railroad company before the attempted homestead entries.

A large number of ejectment suits were afterwards maintained against the homesteaders by the railroad company. None of the homestead claimants were successful, but they caused a world of trouble and unsettled the title to the railroad lands for several years. A large number of claimants were forcibly ejected and removed from the lands by the sheriff, who set out their property and household effects into the public highway. Some of the claimants yielded, compromised and bought their lands from the railroad company.

Joseph Tharnish was the first homestead settler on Blue Grass creek about 1871. His claim included part of the present site of the town of Audubon.

These affairs engendered much bitterness against the railroad company; but, on the whole, the contentions were conducted with decorum. Happily, the whole of that unpleasantness has long since vanished.

FIRST EVENTS.

First Settlers: Nathaniel Hamlin, May 6, 1851; John S. Jenkins and family, May 6, 1851; Philip A. Decker, May 6, 1851; John Hoggard, May 6, 1851; Betsey A. Hoggard, May 6, 1851.

First log cabin, Nathaniel Hamlin, May 7, 1851; first birth, child of

Philip A. Decker, December, 1851; first death, Mrs. Philip A. Decker, December, 1851; first physician, Samuel M. Ballard, 1851; first saw-mill, John Countryman, 1852-3; first frame building, John Countryman, 1852-3; first postmaster, Nathaniel Hamlin, December 5, 1853; first lawyer, Daniel M. Harris, 1854; first school house, private, Hamlin & Harris, 1854; first school teacher, Ellen Northgraves, 1854; first blacksmith, Charles Marsh, 1855; first store, Erasmus D. Bradley, Oakfield, 1855; first election, April 2, 1855; first town platted, Dayton, July 9, 1855; first term of court, November, 1855; first marriage, George L. Kellogg and Susannah Kenyon, April 16, 1856; first shoemaker, John S. Johnston, 1856; first steam-mills, Green, Chapin & Burnham and Samuel M. Ballard, 1856; first public school house, Hamlin's, 1856; first Fourth of July celebration, 1856; first brick-makers, James Poor, Avery Belcher, Thomas Stevens, 1857-8; first county fair, 1859; first newspaper, *Audubon County Pioneer*, J. C. Brown and John J. Van Houghton, 1860; first hotel, Palmer Rogers, Exira, 1858; first harnessmaker, David E. Soar, Exira, 1866; first church edifice, Exira, 1870; first brick building, H. F. Andrews, Exira, 1873; first pool hall, John Hilton, Exira, 1874-5; first bank, Charles Van Gorder, Exira, 1876; first notary public, Alonzo N. Arnold, Oakfield, 1855.

EARLY MARRIAGES.

George L. Kellogg and Susannah Kenyon, April 16, 1856; William Carpenter and Martha H. Johnson, June 22, 1856; Barzilla Sylvester and Beulah Thacker, April 13, 1857; William Walker and Nancy J. Bowen, February 18, 1858; Charles E. Marsh and Elizabeth Millholland, November 28, 1858; Lee L. Bartlett and Sarah B. Jenkins, 1859; John C. Morrison and Margaret I. Robinson, December 15, 1859; John Crane and Mary I. Harris, December 24, 1859; John A. Hallock and Katherine Crane, January 30, 1860; Peoria I. Whitted and Louisa C. Montgomery, February 28, 1860; John W. Dodge and Eliza Smith, March 12, 1860; William Queery and Sarah E. Kirk, March 13, 1860; Isaac Thomas and Mary M. Hamlin, March 14, 1860; Thomas A. Rowland and Melvina C. Lewis, March 16, 1860; Richard Gault and Mary L. Herrick, May 1, 1860; George H. Calder and Judith A. Howlett, April 14, 1861; Elam W. Pearl and Sarah F. Norton, April 23, 1861; Thomas W. Osborn and Lucy Dungan, May 5, 1861; James B. Root and Martha I. Donnel, October 19, 1861; Luke Imus and Caroline Parmley, December 12, 1861; Richard F. Parmeley and Mary E. Johnston,

August 26, 1862; Avery Belcher and Thersa Earley, March 14, 1863; Oliver Smith and Emily J. Beers, March 20, 1864; Christian J. Wyland and Amanda H. Dunington, April 11, 1864; James A. Poage and Priscilla J. Hopkins, July 28, 1864; George W. Cannon and Harriet Jenkins, September 27, 1864; Samuel Howlett and Mary E. Brown, October 27, 1864; W. A. Ellis and Caroline Earley, January 9, 1865; John T. Jenkins and Darthula Rogers, January 19, 1865; Chauncey E. Ward and Maria A. Bowdish, February 1, 1865; Washington M. Harmison and Sarah M. Bailey, March 7, 1865; Franklin Salter and Mary A. Crane, August 27, 1865; Joseph Dungan and Alice Carley, October 8, 1865; Jacob Lawrence and Martha Wilson, November 28, 1865; George Lawrence and Mary E. Wilson, November 28, 1865; William Bice and Susan Wilson, December 6, 1865; Robert A. Oliphant and Mrs. Sarah M. Harmison, January 1, 1866; Abram Van Winkle and Harriet Schultz, April 18, 1866; Charles H. Norton and Charlotte Howlett, April 29, 1866; Charles E. Hawk and Hannah M. Hamlin, May 20, 1866; Xerxes Knox and Nancy C. Smith, July 29, 1866; Judson D. Herrick and Mrs. Louisa Strickland, November 8, 1866; Jaynes Robinson and Mary Heuthern, December 30, 1866; George Gingery and Virginia Goodale, February 2, 1867; William Radcliff and Malinda C. Hamlin, February 28, 1867; Ayers D. Martin and Sarah L. Whitney, March 3, 1867; George W. Bowdish and Ellen Clark, April 28, 1867; N. C. Malfitt and Josephine Lewis, June 3, 1867; James Luckenbill and Sarah A. Carpenter, June 19, 1867; J. H. Harrington and Maggie M. Montgomery, June 31, 1867; Joel H. Basham and Melissa Hallock, July 2, 1867; Vincent Bateham and Maria Paige, September 7, 1867; John C. Donnel and Hattie M. Donner, September 28, 1867; Edward Calph and Martha J. Hamlin, November 17, 1867; Henry Decker and Mary Wilson, December 25, 1867; John C. Norton and Susie M. Ostrander, February 1, 1868; Isaac H. Jenkins and Clarissa W. Chase, March 15, 1868; Henry D. Martin and Eliza V. Reynolds, March 28, 1868; Hugh E. McNutt and Sarah A. Griffin, March 28, 1868; Joseph Walker and Juliet F. Bowen, April 19, 1868; Isaac P. Hallock and Malinda A. Norton, May 10, 1868; Samuel Smith and Mrs. Louann Bailey, June 1, 1868; Henry T. Egan and Mary A. Reynolds, July 6, 1868; David E. Soar and Rebecca N. Harris, July 17, 1868; Lysannius M. Anderson and Tryphenia Hopkins, November 12, 1868; Samuel F. Donnel and Mrs. Tamzey Flora, November 15, 1868; G. R. Trowbridge and Elizabeth J. Hamlin, November 19, 1868; Adam B. Griffin and Sarah A. Wiggins, November 26, 1868; Daniel Heald and Mary J. Wood, December 29, 1868.

FIRST SETTLERS IN THE SEVERAL TOWNSHIPS.

Exira, Nathaniel Hamlin and John T. S. Jenkins, 1851; Oakfield, Dr. Samuel M. Ballard, 1851; Hamlin, Hiram Perkins, 1855; Audubon, Daniel M. Harris, 1856; Greeley, Samuel Smith, 1856; Viola, Joseph J. Williams, 1859; Leroy, Darius Barlow, 1863; Cameron, Robert Gunn, 1868; Douglas, Thomas J. Ellsberry, 1870; Melville, Benjamin F. Miller, 1869; Lincoln, Isaac K. Johnson, 1871.

CHAPTER V.

THE FIRST SETTLERS.

THE HAMLINS.

The ancestry of the Hamlin family beyond a certain limit is unknown. Nathaniel Hamlin, our first settler, supposed they were English, which is probably true. It is an old English name, as early as the Norman conquest, 1066. Several of the names were among the very early settlers of New England. Monmouth and other places in New Jersey were settled by colonists from New England before 1700. The discovery of Hamlins in New Jersey at that period suggests their emigration from New England.

A man named Hamlin, perhaps John, lived in Suffolk county, New Jersey, as appears from the records of birthplaces of his children. He was twice married and probably died in New Jersey. His children by his first wife were: Nathaniel, who built the first house in Columbus, Ohio; John, who is referred to in the following paragraph; Richard, who went to Vermont. By a second wife, there were two children, James, who settled in Lewis county, Kentucky, and a daughter.

John Hamlin, son of John (?) above named, was born in Huntington, New Jersey, July 2, 1759, and married Mrs. Rosannah (Hayes) Lard, widow of James Lard. By a former husband she had a son, James, who was adopted by Mr. Hamlin. They moved to Washington county, Pennsylvania; thence to Delaware county, Ohio. The journey was by flatboat down the Ohio river. Later they lived at the Salt Licks, Lewis county, Kentucky. He was a Revolutionary soldier from Sussex county, New Jersey: Private in Captain Hulick's company under General Dickensen, one month, 1776; private in Captain Benjamin McCullough's company, under General Dickensen, three months, 1776-7; private in Captain Lock's company, under General Dickensen, one month, 1777; private in Captain Hiler's company, one month, 1777; private in Captain Ward's company, three months, 1777. He was a powerful man physically and a noted athlete and fighter in his day, few men being his equals in personal encounter. He died at Columbus, Ohio, when over eighty years of age. His children were:

James, adopted, married Sally, daughter of Reuben Hamlin; William (see record of him in the following paragraph): Eleanor, married her cousin, Charles, son of Nathaniel Hamlin.

William Hamlin, son of John, was born in Lewis county Kentucky, on July 9, 1791. He married there, February 3, 1811, Mary, daughter of James and Sarah (Golden) Smith, who was born in New Jersey, May 21, 1786. He was a farmer. He built a log cabin at the Salt Licks, Kentucky, and afterwards a more pretentious dwelling, where he lived and reared a family. In later years he was deputy sheriff. He was a private in Captain Seward's company, under General Shelby, Kentucky militia, August 28 to November 3, 1814. These were mounted troops, each man furnishing his own horse and equipment. His half-brother, James (Lard) Hamlin, served with him. His father accompanied them; having been an old soldier, he said he would go along to take care of the boys. They participated in the battle of the Thames in Canada, under General Harrison, in which Col. Dick Johnson led an attack against the Indians under Tecumseh. A personal encounter ensued between Colonel Johnson and Tecumseh, who shot at each other, and the colonel fell wounded. Capt. James Johnson, who was present, saw his brother fall and supposed he was killed; he then attacked Tecumseh, who fell mortally wounded. It is not settled who was the slayer of Tecumseh. Nathaniel Hamlin told the writer that he had heard his father say that he was present at the fight, and that he personally captured the headdress and tomahawk of Tecumseh as trophies on that occasion. On the return from Canada, the father, John Hamlin, fell sick, and was conveyed home in a horse-litter, which required so much attention that he (William) neglected his baggage, and the trophies were stolen from him, as he supposed, and were lost. William Hamlin was a strong man, with black hair and eyes and red whiskers. He died at Salt Lick on November 25, 1837. His widow went to live with her son, William, at Bethel, Ohio, then at Homer, Illinois, and came to Audubon county with him in 1851. She located the land warrant for the military service of her husband on the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 7, and the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter and the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 8, in township 77, range 36, on Buck creek, now Pymosa township, Cass county, Iowa. A patent was issued to her for the same on September 20, 1861, signed by Abraham Lincoln, President. She lived with her son, William, at what was known as the Barney Harris place, on Buck creek, and at Exira. She returned to Ohio and Kentucky in 1865 with her daughters, Mrs. Beck and Mrs. Glasgow, but came

back to Audubon county in 1867. Here she lived with her son Nathaniel until her death, June 30, 1866, aged over one hundred years.

To William and Mary Hamlin the following children were born in Lewis county, Kentucky: Rosanna, born on January 18, 1812, married Hiram M. Beck; Nathaniel, March 13, 1814, married Margaret Poage; James, April 1, 1815, married Eliza Shearer; John, September 3, 1816, died on October 28, 1826; Sarah, January 12, 1818, married James H. Denham; Christiana, December 7, 1819, married Dawson Glasgow; William Parker, November 14, 1821, married Justenia Lafargee; Mary, March 23, 1823, married John Johnson.

We have given the lineage of the Hamlins and the record of the children of William Hamlin with greater particularity, because several of the family were among the early settlers of Audubon county.

NATHANIEL HAMLIN.

The prominence of our first settler merits a tribute to his memory. Forming his acquaintance in 1865, and holding the relation of his trusted legal adviser for years in many transactions, furnished the writer the experience and opportunity to form an accurate estimate of his character as a leading prominent man and citizen of this community for half a century. Our political principles were diametrically opposed. Mr. Hamlin was a Kentuckian, of mature age when I first knew him, imbued with southern ideas; a believer in the Confederacy, so much so that he named a son for Robert E. Lee. The writer was a Yankee boy from Maine, just from three years' service in the Union army, a Republican, with all that it implied. During war times here party spirit ran to extremes, and Republicans and Democrats entertained bitter hostile relations, which had not subsided. The writer was naturally prejudiced against the views of Mr. Hamlin, who was a party leader, and with those who acted with him. Subsequent years of association generated mutual respect for each other.

Perhaps others can tell the life of Mr. Hamlin better than the writer. He was a man of honor and integrity, truthful in an eminent degree, and generous to the limit—an old-fashioned gentleman. In mature life, he was of erect figure, five feet and ten inches in stature; weight, one hundred and fifty-five pounds; brown hair and eyes; light florid complexion, with thin, full beard. In later life he became stooped, and his hair and beard were gray. His book learning was limited and was received in the rude hut used for schools at that period, furnished with desks and seats split and hewed



OLD HAMLIN HOUSE, WEST FRONT—Left to right: Hendrick R. Smith, 1856; Maturin L. Thomas, grandson of Nathaniel Hamlin; present owner, Isaac V. D. Lewis, 1854. The building at the right was the office of the Western Stage Co. up to 1868.



OLD HAMLIN HOUSE, EAST FRONT—Left to right: Maturin L. Thomas, grandson of Nathaniel Hamlin; Isaac V. D. Lewis, 1854; Hendrick R. Smith, 1856.

from logs, and secured by big wooden pins. His training was physical, relating to the stern realities of pioneer life; hewing down the primeval forests and forcing a home from the wilderness, rather than the pursuits of literature. In youth he was an expert hunter, and, with gun and dogs, roamed through timber and mountains in pursuit of bear, deer and other wild game; and he was rewarded with trophies of his prowess in the chase.

In reminiscent moods, he sometimes related incidents in the lives of himself and kindred, some of which have been preserved. He related the



P Hamlin

THE FIRST SETTLER IN AUDUBON COUNTY

following: "I once killed the largest bear ever found in the neighborhood. It stole in one night and destroyed several litters of pigs, and was discovered next morning. A Mr. Carter, who had a large pack of hounds, corralled him in a thicket; but the bear dispersed the hounds. I was sent for, and, with gun and dogs, hastened to the scene. One of my dogs attacked the bear and was disabled. The bear escaped and crawled into a hollow chestnut log, where I shot, wounded and enraged it. It made a rush, knocked me down and escaped. A race of a quarter of a mile left me behind, but the dogs followed and brought the bear to bay on a hillside,

where a terrible fight took place between the bear and dogs. I got there in time to shoot and kill the bear." Mr. Hamlin's love for hunting continued as long as game was abundant, and he kept a variety of guns, and several noble hounds at his home up to the time of his death. The baying of hounds was music to his ear.

Nathaniel Hamlin was born in Lewis county, Kentucky, March 13, 1814. On arriving at majority, he remained in his native place and worked at whip-sawing in the timber at one dollar and twenty-five cents a day. One season his crew got out the frame for a steamboat. He remembered the first saw-mill set up in that county. Before that event they lived in log cabins, floored with "puncheons," split out of logs and roughly hewed with broad-axes. After his father's death, in the fall of 1837, he left the "old Kentucky home" and went to Champaign county, Illinois, where he worked a season on the Illinois Central railroad. Two outfits worked on the job, one company being Americans, the other Irishmen. To his disgust he was put to work with the latter gang; but he soon discovered information which he turned to advantage. In addition to the regular wages paid, the laborers were allowed several "jiggers" (drinks of whisky) a day. Mr. Hamlin exchanged his share for labor with other workmen, and thus got to rest while others worked—in the absence of the "boss."

On April 9, 1840, Mr. Hamlin married in Vermilion county, Illinois, Margaret, daughter of Allan and Margaret (Terrill) Poage. She was born in Greenup county, Kentucky, August 12, 1824. This proved the best adventure of Mr. Hamlin's life. For several years after marriage they had a struggle for existence. Times were hard, money scarce and farm products commanded but low prices. They were not landowners yet, but were obliged to accept indulgence for subsistence, which was obtained. When the time for payment came they were less able to pay than at the start, so that a note for the debt, at twelve per cent. interest, was given for extension of time. This was paid at maturity out of the proceeds of hogs raised, fattened and marketed at one and a quarter cents a pound. About this time he got a job hauling grain to Chicago, which furnished the necessities for a living, and they secured a small lot of stock. They sold out in Illinois at extremely low prices (the best cow brought only seven dollars), and in the fall of 1844 went to Sand Ridge, near Trenton, in Henry county, Iowa. The following year he returned to Illinois to collect the proceeds of the sale of the previous year, and received pay in Indiana and Ohio bank notes, or "wildcat" money, which proved to be of doubtful value. This reverse brought them to the foot again financially. In the spring of 1845

they loaded their effects into two wagons and started for the new purchase made from the Sac and Fox Indians, where he had bought from his uncle, for thirty dollars on time, an abandoned claim of one hundred and twenty acres of land, in the extreme northwest corner of Mahaska county, on the Skunk river.

Mr. Hamlin related: "When we got there I had but a five-franc piece left. Our claim had a log hut on it, without roof or floor, and we used the bark of basswood trees for a loft, the logs being split for rails. We lived there until the following September. Some people claimed that our 'wildcat' money was worth fifty cents on the dollar, but I gave eighty dollars of it on the Circleville, Ohio, bank for a squirrel rifle, which I still have and with which we procured all the meat we had for two years. During that time we lived on the scantiest fare, having neither coffee, except such as we made from parched corn, nor sugar, nor even soda for our bread. On a diet of cornbread and corn coffee, I have walked a mile and a half and split two hundred rails a day. After we had been in Mahaska county awhile, I went back to Henry county to mill, and while resting in an emigrant camp I found a half dollar, which was then more highly prized than one thousand dollars would be today. There was no money in the country until 1848, when a colony of Hollanders settled in Marion county. They soon built a grist-mill, which was a great relief to the settlers. I was now able to pay my claim. I might possibly have borrowed some money at very high rates, but when I got out of debt in Illinois I made a vow never again, if I could avoid it, to get into debt, and was determined to keep my word. At the end of two years my clothes were in tatters; but of two deer skins, which I tanned, I made, with whangs, a pair of pants and moccasins. With another buckskin I got my first start of hogs by trading it with a neighbor for a shoat, which I carried a mile and a half home on my back. A friend loaned us a cow, from which we obtained milk and butter."

It was a common thing for Mr. Hamlin and his neighbors to grind corn for meal in a hand-mill. He was elected justice of the peace in 1846, and held the office until he came to Audubon county.

In 1848 Mr. Hamlin made a trip to Illinois to visit friends. He agreed with a man to put up some hay for him while he was absent, which he failed to do. The corn was frosted, and some of it was cut up and shocked for feed. The snow came in October, before the ground froze, and laid all winter, so that in the spring they were able to gather their potatoes and turnips, which had laid in the ground all winter, unhurt. They suffered in Mahaska county from fever and ague, as they had in Illinois,

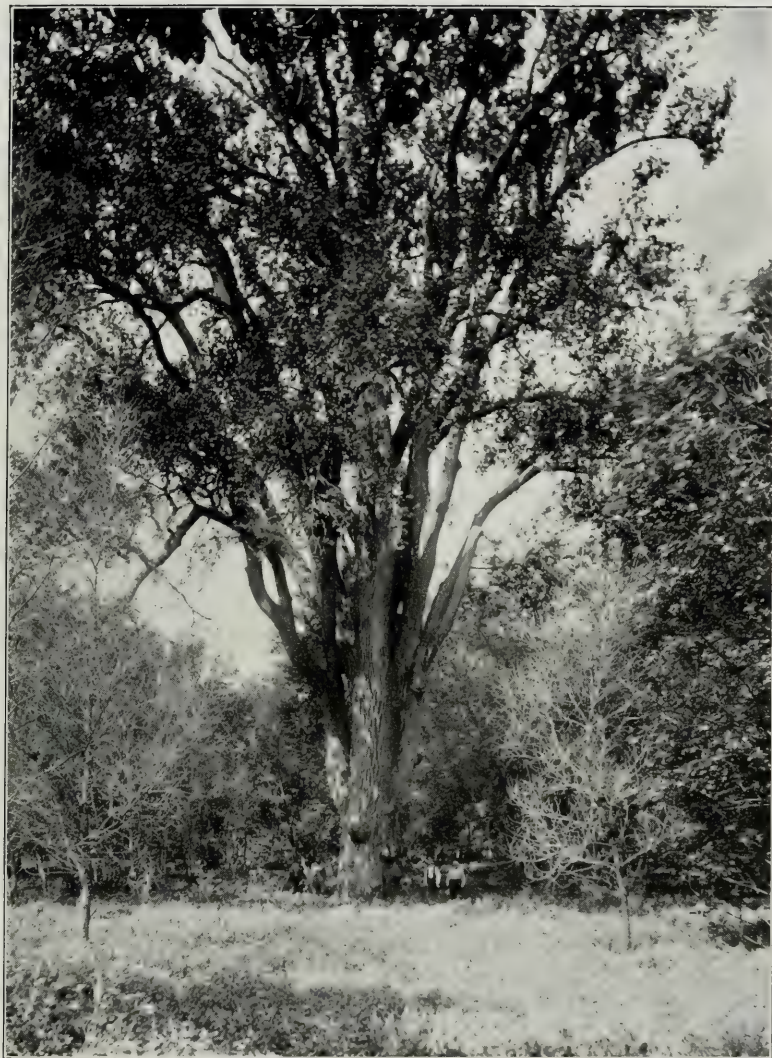
and decided to move again and make another trial for a home. So they sold their land in Mahaska in 1850 for one thousand dollars, and took most of the pay in oxen and young cattle.

We have previously given an account of the settlement of Mr. Hamlin and his family in Audubon county in 1851. The site of his home was on the south side of "Unexpected creek," a tributary of Troublesome, in the northeast quarter of section 35, now Exira township. This was on the Mormon trail, and there he made his home and lived the remainder of his life. It soon became the overland route to California, and later to Pike's Peak and the west, and brought traffic to his very door. "Hamlin's Grove" was known across the state of Iowa, from Davenport to Council Bluffs, as well as outside the state. A postoffice of the same name was established there and he was appointed the first postmaster in the county, receiving his commission under President Zachary Taylor in 1853, and held the office until removed by President Lincoln for political reasons, in 1861. The Western Stage company afterwards established a station at his place, of which he was agent, and continued until the advent of the railroad in 1869.

He acquired a large amount of land and was extensively engaged in farming and stock raising. He employed many to work for him, and for many years was one of the most prosperous men in the county and one of the two most wealthy. His situation enabled him to dispose of his products to emigrants at good prices. In the early days he kept goods for sale. He, with Charles Marsh, started the first blacksmith shop in the county. He kept large numbers of horses and mules, which pastured over the prairies about Indian Grove and Crooked creek, in what is now Audubon township, and had many cattle and hogs. For several years at the close of the war, and later, he, with G. T. Poage and Levi Zaner, operated the steam saw and grist-mill, and did a thriving business at Old Louisville, the busiest place in the county, then and up to about the time of the advent of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad to Atlantic. In 1855 he was elected first treasurer and recorder of the county, and held the office until 1864. For several years he was trustee of Audubon township, when it embraced the entire county. The following incident in his official career illustrates his offhand, characteristic honesty and fairness. In 1868 he was one of the judges of election. Audubon township was strongly Democratic, and the county was nearly divided in politics. The election board convened in the schoolhouse near Lewis's, and received votes until noon, when they adjourned for dinner at Mr. Hamlin's house. We suppose they had a good dinner there, as was usual, with the "trimmings" that went



FIREPLACE IN OLD HAMLIN HOUSE. FIRST BRICK MADE IN AUDUBON COUNTY, 1858.



BIG TREE, 23 FEET IN CIRCUMFERENCE, ON OLD HAMLIN ESTATE.

with it. Walter J. Jardine, a Scotchman, was a member of the board. They took with them the ballot box, which was fashioned from a cigar box, with a slit cut in the top for receiving the ballots. It was a fragile affair, and the custodian had too much dinner—or something—and crushed the box while carrying it under his arm. Some of the ballots dropped out, unnoticed at the time, and were lost. On reassembling at the voting place, the accident was discovered and the judges were in a dilemma as to how to proceed. "By gr-r-racious! What shall we do?" said Mr. Jardine, and they discussed the matter. "I'll be ganned, sir, I'll tell you what we will do," said Mr. Hamlin. "Look at the names on the pollbook and see how many Democrats and how many Republicans have voted (which was not difficult to do, for voters did not scratch tickets much in those days); then open the ballot box and see how many ballots of each kind have been lost, and put in enough more of each kind to make the count good." And it was so done. It was afterwards proposed to contest the election and throw out the vote of Audubon township, which would have changed the result as declared and have elected the Republican ticket by a handsome majority. But better judgment prevailed. While the action of the judges was clearly illegal in tampering with the ballot box, no actual fraud was intended. The result was as the voters intended.

In 1854-5 Hamlin and his neighbors built a log building for a private school house, the first in the county, and hired a private teacher to teach his own children and those of Judge Harris. He was an influential man in the early days, and if a school house, highway, bridge or other public improvement was wanting, it was well to secure his assistance to insure success.

In politics Hamlin was an old-fashioned, Andrew Jackson Democrat, for whom he cast his first presidential vote, and he supported Stephen A. Douglas for President in 1860. A pro-slavery man, in his opinion it was a more heinous offense to steal a "nigger" than to steal a horse or any other kind of property. He strongly advocated opposition to the Civil War and the Republican administration, during that period; but he never committed any overt act of treason against the government. His sentiments were tinged by the conduct of J. Lyman Frost toward himself. Mr. Hamlin was a high-spirited man, a leader in public affairs, and held prominent offices. Frost was a meddlesome, revengeful man, a dabbler in partizan politics in a small way. He and his party spied upon Mr. Hamlin and his party, and watched for an opportunity to injure and discredit him. It came by the removal of Hamlin from the postoffice for political rea-

sons, and Frost was appointed in his place, which Mr. Hamlin keenly resented, rightly believing it was accomplished by Frost to injure him in public estimation. And it probably caused Hamlin to become a more bitter partizan. It is justice to Mr. Frost to add that he was a zealous Union man, and believed that he was doing his duty to the country.

In other respects Hamlin was a good citizen, and was deeply interested in the progress and prosperity of the community in which he lived. A prominent citizen once remarked concerning him: "He was a good friend, but not a bad enemy." If he disliked a person he let him severely alone. Many a poor man in this county has received substantial aid and assistance from Mr. Hamlin, and his kindness of heart many times led him into obligations on behalf of his neighbors which left him many thousands of dollars out of pocket. He possessed a keen sense of honor and integrity. "His word was as good as his bond."

No little of Mr. Hamlin's prosperity was attributable to his excellent wife. "Aunt Peggy" was admirably suited to pioneer life. The Hamlin home was the synonym for hospitality. The hungry never left their door unfed. No woman in Audubon county ever fed so many mouths, free gratis, as did this good lady. It seemed to make no difference how many dropped in at meal times, nor whether they came unannounced; she was equal to the occasion, and without excuses or ostentation, in a plain, common sense way, in surprising readiness, fed the multitude in a substantial manner. Their ordinary household was large, with their many children and hired help; then later, the employees of the stage company, who boarded and lodged there, and the passengers on the stages, and other travelers made uncertain numbers to feed and were numerous. People from all parts congregated there socially and on business, and the young people on Sundays made Hamlin's a public resort.

A prominent citizen told the writer years ago that in early times here money was very scarce; that he was unable for months at a time to obtain enough specie to pay postage on letters to his friends. Mr. Hamlin was an exception to this condition. The money which came into this county generally found its way into his hands as postmaster or county treasurer. To facilitate the stringency of money, during war times, Mr. Hamlin issued script money, written on pasteboard. The artist who made it was our old-time friend, the late A. B. Houston, who ornamented the cards in his own particular method with pen and various colored inks. The following is a copy of a piece of the Hamlin script:

50	A. B. HOUSTON HAMLIN'S GROVE AND EXIRA.	50
<hr/> Pay the bearer Fifty Cents in Currency when presented in sums of Five Dollars. <div style="text-align: right;">N. HAMLIN.</div> Exira, Iowa, Jan. 15, 1863.		
50		50

Mr. Hamlin was considered amply good, where he was known, for everything to which his name was attached.

The following statement shows a difficulty with the money of those early days:

“Fort Des Moines, October 25, 1854.

“This is to certify that I paid Mr. N. Hamlin for J. Frink & Co. a ten-dollar bill on the State Bank of Ohio, which he cannot pass. It is said to be counterfeit. I took the bill for good money, but do not know who gave it to me.

“EDWIN TAYLOR.”

ELECTION CERTIFICATE.

“State of Iowa, Audubon County, ss.:

“This is to certify that at an election held in the town of Dayton, in said county and state, on the 3rd day of August, 1857, Nathaniel Hamlin, was elected treasurer and recorder for said county for the term of two years, he having given bond and taken the oath of office prescribed by law.

“Given under my hand and seal of office, August 8, 1857.

“D. M. HARRIS, County Judge.”

Like many old-fashioned people, Mr. Hamlin was partial to the favorite beverage of Kentucky, which he used in moderation all his life, and in early times kept it for sale. He usually had a generous supply in his house, which he was pleased to offer his friends and guests when under his hospitable roof.

In 1870, before the resumption of specie payment, during an absence of Mr. Hamlin in Colorado on business, the writer, who was his attorney,

had occasion to look among his private business papers. He was shown into a secret place back of the chimney, and there, in a trunk, search was made for the necessary papers. In examining the contents of the trunk there were found two shot sacks, apparently filled with coins. Mentioning the fact to Mr. Hamlin years afterwards, he admitted that he had kept that specie on hand many years, all through the war period. He was one of those who did not have faith in the paper money of the United States, and believed that it would share the same fate as the old "wildcat" money.

Mr. Hamlin was not a church member, but favored the Baptist faith. Mrs. Hamlin was a member of the Christian church. He died at his home, of paralysis on April 17, 1897. After his death Mrs. Hamlin moved to Exira, and died there on September 13, 1906. Most of the Hamlin estate has passed out of the hand of his descendants. A grandson, Maturin L. Thomas, owns the old homestead proper, on Troublesome creek.

The children born to this worthy couple were as follow: Mary Margaret, who married Isaac Thomas; Hannah Maria, married Charles C. Hawk; Sarah Rosannah, married Benjamin F. Thomas; Malinda Christina, married William Radcliff; William Allan, married Florence A. Lewis; Martha Jane, married Edward Calph; Eliza Angeline, died in 1859; Susan Parker, married John V. Plantz; Clara Harris, married John M. Allen; Nathaniel Douglas, married Elva Crane; Fernando Burton, married Emma E. Kilworth; Robert E. Lee, married Sadie J. Wheeler.

WILLIAM P. HAMLIN.

William P. Hamlin came with the first settlers in May, 1851, but soon moved to Cass county, a short distance south of the Exira township line. His place was afterward owned for many years by Almond Goodale. From thence he moved to Buck creek, a short distance south of the Audubon county line on the place owned for many years by Barney Harris. He moved to Exira in 1860 and bought the residence of Judge Harris, who at once built a larger dwelling on the site of the present Park hotel. Hamlin was a hunter; had done a little farming; kept a small stock of merchandise in his dwelling for sale, brought by his own team from Des Moines, Council Bluffs and other places; and he sold liquors. He was conspicuous for quarrels and petty lawsuits, and was frequently prosecuted for illicit dealing in liquors. He was a visionary man and dabbled in patent rights. He was proprietor of "Hamlin's Omaha Liniment." In collecting testimonials for advertising the nostrum, he solicited one from Peoria I. Whitted, who said

that he had used the article and appreciated its value, and that it would be a pleasure for him to oblige Mr. Hamlin. Whitted said that on one occasion a strange dog was harboring about his place, and in trying to drive it away, he threw an ax at the dog, which cut off its tail; that he was sorry for the suffering of the poor brute and bathed the wounded stump from which the tail was cut with "Hamlin's Liniment," and, behold, a new tail grew out from it. He was surprised at the result, and some time later he discovered the dissevered caudal appendage, and recalling the marvelous effect of the liniment on the former occasion, he applied a dose of it to the defunct member, when, wonderful to relate, a new dog was grown out of it. This romance of Whitted's produced no small amount of merriment at Hamlin's expense, who did not take to it kindly. While a member of the grand jury in 1869, he was himself indicted for selling liquor, and pleaded guilty. On coming before Judge Maxwell for sentence, he was given permission to make a statement in mitigation, and gave an ingenious excuse. He said that he was the manufacturer of "Hamlin's Omaha Liniment," one of the ingredients of which was alcohol, which he kept on hand, and that he had, out of friendship, let his neighbors have some of it. The Judge first cautioned him not to interrupt while he pronounced sentence; ordered him to stand up and proceeded to censure him unmercifully and poured out the vials of his wrath on the heinousness of rum-selling, until Hamlin could stand it no longer, and he said: "I did have a United States license, Judge." "What did you get that for?" mockingly said the Judge. "I did it because I thought it would be no child's play to get into the United States court," humbly replied Mr. Hamlin. "I will tell you now, Mr. Hamlin, before you are through with my court that it is no child's play," savagely responded the Judge. And a stiff fine was imposed.

In 1870 Hamlin resisted an officer who was searching his premises for illicit liquors, and hid himself out for many days to escape arrest. His liquor was seized and, pending trial, it was stolen and the receptacle filled with water. Mr. Scott was prosecuting the case before Squire Dodge, who solemnly condemned the stuff, and ordered it destroyed. The sheriff carried it into the street, broke up the cask and spilled the contents. Mr. Dodge himself tried to set it on fire with a match, but it would not burn. He remarked that any one who kept such miserably poor whisky ought to be punished! But the way Scott and Griggs convulsed with laughter at sight of the justice trying to set water on fire with a match, indicated that they might have known what became of the whisky. It was pronounced bonus by those supposed to be judges of the article.

A warrant was issued for the arrest of Hamlin, and delivered to Henry Huyck, constable, for service, who was afraid, and consulted Mr. Leffingwell, ex-sheriff, as to his duty in the matter. Leffingwell, observing Huyck's dilemma, and his fear and inexperience, saw a chance for some fun. He caused him to believe that Hamlin was a dangerous man, and cautioned him to be on the alert and to avoid injury. Huyck armed himself, practiced firing a revolver, called Leffingwell out to witness his shooting and requested his opinion as to his chances of arresting Mr. Hamlin. In firing off his gun, one of the chambers missed. "There," said Leffingwell, "What could you do now if Hamlin was after 'you?'" It so worked on Huyck's nerves and alarmed him that he resigned his office, and Hamlin was not apprehended. He sold out and went to Arkansas, but kept in hiding until he got away. He had an idea that a Democrat was the salt of the earth and could do no wrong. His favorite appellation was to call Republicans "Thundering Puritan Hounds." His favorite byword was "By gosh!" which was the extent of his profanity. It is fair to say that he was honorable and honest in financial matters and his word was considered good. He had a strong dislike at that time for the writer, whom he classed with the "Puritans," but, in later years, this attitude changed to that of firm friendship and mutual confidence. If there was one thing more than another which he despised it was a "Yankee." When leaving, he was owing me a small sum, which he sent in and paid in full. Many were delighted at his departure and would not have detained him for sake of seeing him punished. He returned to Exira about 1874-5 and drove a hack-line several years. During the same time he resumed selling wine and beer, for which he was again prosecuted. He returned again to Arkansas about 1879. On a visit here a few years later, he said that he had modified his political views, and that he strongly opposed the liquor traffic, having seen so much of its evils. He also said to me: "Frank, you used to think I was on 'Old Moss Back,' but I wish you could see some of the natives in Arkansas. They called me a 'Yankee.' I tell you it was tough." He died on January 17, 1909.

THE JENKINSES.

John Shacket Jenkins was born near Elizabeth, Meade county, Kentucky, October 14, 1799. His father bore the same name. His wife was Malinda Miller. He was a stone mason by trade and a farmer. He lived in Meade county until about 1838, when he moved to Perry county, Indiana; thence to Dablonaga, Wapello county, Iowa, in 1850. This place did

not please him and, in the spring of the year 1851, he started west again without any particular place in view, to discover a suitable place for a home.

At the Quaker Divide, near Winterset, Iowa, he fell in with Nathaniel Hamlin and his party, who were on their journey to settle in Audubon county. As stated elsewhere, the company arrived at Mr. Hamlin's claim on May 6. With him came his wife and children. He had three yoke of oxen, a cow and a horse. The next morning after the arrival at Hamlin's place he mounted his horse and rode over to the Nishua Botna river, to the site of the present town of Oakfield, where he selected a claim for his home.



JOHN S. JENKINS

near the "Big Spring," and near where the old school house at Oakfield used to stand. To mark out his claim he blazed a basswood tree and upon it wrote, "This is my claim," and signed his name to it. Soon after a party of men came there from down river about Indian Town or Lewis, among whom was one Jerry Bradshaw, who took a fancy to the same location and proceeded to blaze trees to mark out a claim.

Mr. Jenkins soon learned about Bradshaw's operations and went to ascertain what he was doing. William Hamlin, who went with him, narrated the event many years ago. They were at first in doubt whether Bradshaw was attempting to "jump" "Uncle Johnny's" claim, but found where

he had blazed trees on Jenkins's claim and soon discovered that he had cut down one of Jenkins's witness trees and thrown it into the river. This aroused the ire of "Uncle Johnny," who said to Mr. Hamlin: "This shows to me, sir, that they are not innocent progressors." Then they came to "Uncle Johnny's" blazed basswood, and found that Bradshaw had written beneath Jenkins's claim: "This is my claim and you had better get off." We shall have occasion to show later how Bradshaw was disposed of. Mr. Jenkins held his claim and soon built a cabin on it. This claim he sold in 1854 to Samuel B. Hopkins and it subsequently became the Hallock place and the town of Oakfield was located on part of it. Mr. Jenkins soon located in section 29 in what is now Exira township. At first he built another log cabin, later a commodious dwelling, which, if not the first, was among the earliest plastered houses in the county before 1865. This place he sold about 1870, and moved to near the present town of Brayton. He was a Kentuckian of the old school, a stern man, physically and morally, and of lofty sentiments; of the strictest integrity; honorable and trustworthy in every way. His word was reliable and always promptly defended and sustained. Nothing insulted him more than to dispute or cast doubt upon it. At the first election in the county, held at his cabin in April, 1855, he was one of the judges of election. A dispute arose between him and Walter Marsh over the candidates for county judge—Daniel M. Harris and Thomas S. Lewis—during which Marsh disputed his word and called him by a hard name. "Uncle Johnny" at once seized his rifle and took it down from the deer horns where it rested and attempted to shoot Marsh, but the bystanders prevented it.

In a large sense, Jenkins was one of nature's noble men. His marked characteristics were worthy of record. His courage was undaunted; but he was kind, friendly and courteous. In a rude way, his utterances often approached remarkable poetic charm and force. His hospitality was of the peculiar, old-fashioned Kentucky style, always with an open welcome, and to offer recompense for entertainment, even by a stranger, was next to an insult—never desired and almost sternly refused, if tendered. His book learning was deficient; he was evidently reared in the stern surroundings of pioneer life—better acquainted with the methods of acquiring the necessities of life than with the accomplishments of social enjoyment.

In his younger days it was considered honorable for men to engage in contests for physical superiority, with only such power and advantages as nature provided and for the mere gratification of deciding who was the best man in a hand-to-hand fight. We have heard him relate taking part

in such contests. His friends and admirers once desired to match him with a noted champion on a public occasion for such a fight. He was then recovering from an illness and did not consider himself in condition for such a trial; but he was persuaded, against his judgment, made the fight, and was defeated. It wounded his pride and injured his reputation, and he decided to fit himself and fight the victor again. Another match was arranged at a general muster of the militia, and a long savage fight was pulled off, in which the combatants used every effort of skill known to such encounters, striking, grappling, wrestling, choking, gouging, etc. Mr. Jenkins won the victory and completely vanquished his antagonist. He added after relating the story: "But, my God, sir, how he gouged me! And my eyes have never been right since." The fact was noticeable that his eyes had been injured. Gouging, which was employed in such fights, consisted in the fighter forcing his thumb into the eye of his antagonist until sometimes the eye was forced from the socket. Barbarous and inhuman as this practice seems, such events were common in old times in Kentucky and elsewhere. A champion in such affairs was considered a popular, prominent citizen, and excited admiration. An old Kentucky favorite once remarked that in his youth every man was expected to be ready to fight at the drop of the hat, and "that unless he was a fighter the girls wouldn't have anything to say to him. That he was looked upon as a coward." What a marked evolution in public opinion on the subject exists today.

After Mr. Bradshaw attempted to jump Mr. Jenkins's claim, his party made claim to some of the land claimed by Doctor Ballard. The settlers collected and proceeded to defend the rights of the Doctor. The meeting was on the Botna, in the timber, near the county line. The Doctor was present, addressed the meeting, and explained what he was doing and desired to do; that he proposed to become an actual settler and desired a good-sized estate, which he had selected, and was able to pay for it, when it came into market and requested protection, etc. Bradshaw and his party urged that the action of the Doctor was unfair; that he was asking too much; that it deprived others from settling there, and added that they had equal right to the land as much as the Doctor had; that they had selected some of the land chosen by the Doctor, and intended to settle on and hold it.

This brought the matter to an issue. Mr. Jenkins, who was "captain" of the Settlers' Club, addressed the meeting and delivered an ultimatum. Said he: "Men, we think we understand you. Now, if you are for peace,

we are for peace; but if you are for war, we are for war, by G——, sirs! Now, you get off from this land.” It had the desired effect. None of the Bradshaw party settled on the land claimed by Doctor Ballard.

The early settlers endured many hardships and privations. There was hardly such a thing as sawed lumber in the settlement, unless it was a wagon box or some article of furniture of that kind. Nearly everything, except food or clothing, required for use had to be hewed from the forest trees by hand work with axes, saws, etc., or had to be obtained from a distance. There were neither mills, workshops or stores here, and the nearest were many miles distant. The settlers ground corn, buckwheat, etc., in hand mills, or grated new corn as a substitute for meal. On one occasion, about 1852, the supply of flour and meal was at low ebb. Mr. Jenkins and Benjamin Hyatt took a load of corn and grain, with an ox team, and started for mill in Missouri. Their route was down the Botna, and on reaching Indian Town (near Lewis) they met a company of Mormons, who were suffering for breadstuff, who requested them to set a price on their grain, for they must have it. They sold the load at two dollars and a half a bushel and returned home, took another supply of grain and proceeded to the mill in Missouri. On arriving there they were told that there was a large amount of custom work ahead of them, and that their grist could not be ground for two weeks, but they persuaded the miller to grind it sooner.

Jenkins once related that the Democrats here during war times prophesied that the “greenback” and United States bonds would become worthless, as continental money did in time of the Revolution. That he then had a few hundred dollars surplus money which he desired to invest for safe-keeping. He consulted the county judge, A. B. Houston, Esq., for advice, who recommended him to let the United States money alone and to invest in Audubon county warrants, then worth seventy-five cents on the dollar, saying that they would pay six per cent interest, and that he (Houston) would assist him in getting them cashed. Afterwards Mr. Houston was elected county treasurer, and occasionally Jenkins called on him and presented his warrants for payment; but there were always other demands for the county revenue, and the warrants were not paid during Houston’s term of office, but were paid by his successor, Van Gorder. In mentioning the matter years afterward, “Uncle Johnny” remarked: “I think that ‘App’ (Mr. Houston) pulled the wool over my eyes.”

It does not appear that Mr. Jenkins made any profession of religion; but that he was liberal in religious matters. In 1865 Elder Richard C. Meek, a noted preacher in his day, and his wife visited at the home of Mr.

Jenkins several months, and while there held family religious services evening and morning. At bedtime good "Aunt Meek" would bring the large Bible and place it before the elder, who would read a portion of Scripture and then offered a prayer, in which he suggested, "We know not that we shall live to see the light of another morning," etc. Next morning he returned thanks for protection through the night, and again referred to the uncertainty of life and recommended preparation for the future. This constant reference at prayer time to the uncertainty of life went on with continual monotony for weeks, to the annoyance of Mr. Jenkins, until one day the elder and "Uncle John" took a stroll together. The elder made the mistake of again introducing the unwelcome subject, and advising the propriety of preparation for the hereafter. "Uncle John" called a halt abruptly. Said he: "Elder Meek, if you are going to die, sir, why don't you die like a man, and not be dying every day of your life, like a d—— coward?" He was a life-long Democrat; was elected county judge in 1865 and held the office one year. We shall have occasion to notice other events in his career at other parts of this work. He died at Brayton on July 11, 1886, and his wife died on March 10, 1882. Their children were as follow: Benjamin Franklin married Maria Byrd and Josephine Gilbert, John Taylor married Darthula Rogers, Sarah Blauset married Lee L. Bartlett, Isaac Hughes married Clarissa Chase and Mollie Devine, Harriet married George Cannon, George Washington married Caroline Woody.

Benjamin Franklin Jenkins (son of John S.), came to Audubon county with his father's family in 1851. He married, first, Maria Byrd. They were divorced, and she became Mrs. Joseph C. Yetzer, of Atlantic, Iowa. For his second wife he married Josephine Gilbert. He was a prominent farmer, and lived near Brayton, Iowa. He was a member of the board of supervisors. He died on December 24, 1887; his wife survived him and died later. To Benjamin and Josephine Jenkins were born these children: Olive, who married Clarence Keese Hallock; Charles W., who married Eva Walker; Hayden; Margaret, who married Charles Sykes; May, who married Ernest Cotton, and Pearl.

John Taylor Jenkins (son of John S.), was born in Meade county, Kentucky, November 14, 1838. He married, in Audubon county, on January 19, 1865, Darthula, daughter of Thomas and Sarah Rodgers, who was born in Illinois. He came to Audubon county with his parents in 1851. He lived at home with his parents until he enlisted in the Second Iowa Battery on August 19, 1861, and served in the Sixteenth, Seventeenth and Eighteenth Army Corps, under Generals Pope, McPherson, Sherman and

Grant. He participated in the battles of Corinth, Vicksburg, Iuka and Tupelo, and was mustered out on September 4, 1864. Upon the organization of the Audubon county militia, the same year, he was elected second lieutenant of the Audubon Mounted Infantry company, which saw no service and became obsolete at the close of the war, the following year. Upon the return of peace, he became a prominent farmer near his former home, and is a large landowner. He was proprietor of the town of Brayton in 1879, and was a merchant in Brayton from 1879 to 1887, afterwards being a dealer and shipper of live stock. He was postmaster at Brayton. A life-long Republican, he has been an active worker in the party, and many times has been a delegate to Republican conventions. He has served as township clerk, township trustee, member of the school board and member of the board of supervisors. He has a fine home near Brayton and is the last survivor of the little company which first settled in Audubon county on May 6, 1851. He is a member of Pymosa Lodge No. 18, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Audubon Lodge No. 217, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Grand Army of the Republic.

Mrs. Jenkins was a popular school teacher before marriage. Their children, born in Audubon county, are as follow: Jeanette, who married Horace M. Bartlett; Marion Elver, who married Mame Black, now deceased, and Frank Granger, who married Josephine Cypher.

SAMUEL M. BALLARD, M. D.

One of the prominent characters in the early settlement of Audubon county was Doctor Samuel M. Ballard. His ancestors were said to have been Virginia Quakers. In youth he lived in Hillsboro, Ohio, where he studied medicine under a preceptor in the old-fashioned way, and afterwards attended medical lectures, perhaps at Cincinnati, Ohio. He was an incomparable story teller and a delightful companion in some ways; but some incidents of his life as told by himself will not, in the light of morality, bear repetition. He once related an amusing incident which occurred during his early medical experience. A council of surgeons were convened to perform an operation upon the patient of his preceptor, and through his courtesy the student (Ballard) was invited to attend and witness the case. A lady, who acted as nurse, prepared the room for the occasion and notified the surgeons that it was ready for their reception. They proceeded to the room, and Ballard followed until reaching the entrance where the others had preceded him. Upon recognizing him, the nurse declined to let him

pass. His preceptor, observing the interruption, said to the nurse: "You may admit Doctor Ballard." She acquiesced, but in a deprecatory tone remarked: "Oh, you are a 'stujent,' are ye?" The memory of that event was a pleasing recollection to the old doctor. He was a noble specimen of manhood—six and a half feet in stature, and of powerful physique, a veritable giant. His presence was at once noticeable, even in the largest assembly. In early life his hair had been sandy; his eyes were flashing blue, with an eagle gaze, and one of them was blind. When the writer first saw him, in 1865, his hair and long flowing beard were snowy white. He was a self-made man, largely; not classically educated and never a student of books. His stock of sound, practical common sense was varied and extensive. He was a thorough business man of the world among pioneers. His reputation as a skillful, successful physician rested upon his own personal experience, rather than upon any book knowledge. But few facts concerning his life have been recorded in print. No biography of him has been discovered. He once related that he came down the Ohio river on a steamboat to St. Louis; thence up the Mississippi river to Iowa. He was engaged in the practice of medicine at Iowa City as early as 1842, and there he established an extensive, lucrative business. He said that he kept relays of saddle horses to carry him about the country; that he would start from Iowa City and ride north several miles; thence west to Oxford, and south to the settlements on English river; thence east and north again to West Liberty and then home, after visiting and prescribing for patients along the route; that he made such trips in a single day and night and often rode asleep in the saddle; that for weeks at a time he slept but four hours out of twenty-four on an average, sometimes falling asleep in the saddle against his will power to keep awake. On such occasions as he was able to go to bed, he would order that he be permitted to sleep but for a half hour, then to be awakened at all hazards by dragging him from bed and throwing cold water in his face. He would then eat something and drink some coffee, and proceed to the next patient, taking another short sleep when wearied nature would resist no longer. His fees sometimes exceeded two hundred dollars in a day. He was a wealthy man before coming to Audubon county. He came to Audubon county in 1851, and his meeting with "Uncle Johnny" Jenkins is told in another part of this work.

Doctor Ballard owned thousands of acres of the best timber and prairie lands in what is now Exira and Oakfield townships, and adjoining, in Cass county. His dwelling, situated in section 25, Oakfield township, was a very common affair. It stood in an open space in the timber on the north side

of the old state road leading south from his dwelling place, and was a one-story building, boarded up and down with rough, undressed oak boards, battened, unpainted and unplastered. It would not have been supposed by strangers that it was the abode of the richest man in the county. Everything about the house was of the most common kind, there being neither fine furniture, books or anything to indicate elegance, refinement, luxury or wealth, except the lands. Mrs. Ballard did not come to the country until 1855, and remained here but a short time, when she moved to Council Bluffs, and was maintained there in good style the remainder of her life. The relation which existed between the Doctor and Mrs. Ballard was never understood by outsiders, but probably was not congenial. Hon. William P. Hepburn, who was intimately acquainted with the family at Iowa City, recently told the writer that the Doctor and Mrs. Ballard were members of the Universalist church in Iowa City, and further related that on one occasion Mrs. Ballard told him that she once believed she was a Universalist, but that she doubted if God would pardon or save so wicked a man as Doctor Ballard. Evidently she was aware of his wrong-doings. In his last sickness Mrs. Ballard came to his residence and cared for him several days until he was moved to her home in Council Bluffs, where he soon died. The house above mentioned was claimed by him as his home and domicile, and he voted in Oakfield township until his death. Many families lived there and kept house for him, among whom were Benjamin M. Hyatt, Samuel Smith, Stephen T. Campbell, Milton Heath and others in early times, and many others afterwards.

Large areas of Doctor Ballard's lands in Audubon and Cass counties were in cultivated farms, with the cheapest kind of dwellings and buildings upon them. It was a small principality, partaking the appearance of ancient times, when such estates were tenanted by serfs and peasants, rather than a modern, up-to-date American settlement. His pastures were filled with large herds of fine cattle, and droves of hogs. He received large quantities of corn and grain from his tenants. He erected a saw-mill near his residence about 1855-56, and got out considerable lumber from his own timber and for his neighbors, until after the railroad came to Atlantic, about 1869. While surrounded by such wealth and advantages, he was unpopular with his neighbors. He was not a public-spirited citizen, his ambition being to accumulate lands and property for his own selfish aggrandizement, along the primitive methods indicated. He did nothing for the upbuilding of his neighbors, or of the community in which he dwelt, consequently he had no friends, even among his kindred. He lived hermit-like, not allowing him-

self a respectable subsistence, considering his wealth; only providing for himself the bare necessities of life, food and raiment. Such methods of existence failed to enlist the favorable opinions of the people among whom he resided. In business affairs he was disagreeable and a hard man to deal with. He constantly differed and quarreled with his tenants, hired help and others who dealt with him. It was said that he was a hard master to his sons.

He complained of losing many cattle and hogs by thieves, and to have lost large amounts of wood and timber by trespassers. Once, when riding with him near Oakfield, a man was met with a load of shoats. The Doctor stopped and claimed them. The driver said he was delivering them to a man whom he named. The Doctor said he had not sold any hogs to that man, and directed him to return them to his place, and not take away any more without his order. The depredations became so flagrant that he was obliged to dispose of all the live stock on his estate. He negotiated the sale of all his cattle, and they were turned into the woods pasture south of the Ballard bridge, temporarily, for delivery a few days later. On the day of delivery, fifty head of the cattle had disappeared, and no trace of them could be discovered. It was supposed that some of the Doctor's agents had made away with them. After he became too old and feeble to superintend his business, for several years large amounts of boards from his fences were stolen and carried away. A barn was discovered near his estate built from such lumber, the marks on the boards plainly showing where they had been fastened to fence posts. The owner of the barn was accused of the theft, and admitted that he had bought the boards from an agent of the Doctor; but he reluctantly paid for them, saying that the money he paid was part of that stolen from the Doctor when he was robbed at his residence in 1882-83, as hereafter related. In the fall of 1882 it was discovered where nine of the Doctor's fat hogs had been stolen, killed in the timber and carried away. It was supposed they went into the pork barrels of his neighbors.

During the last winter of his life, 1882-83, while sick and confined to his bed at his residence, one night two robbers, Northgrave and Van Winkle, as was afterwards learned, entered the house, broke open his bedroom, and robbed him of about two thousand seven hundred dollars in money, which the Doctor had negligently allowed to accumulate in the house, the proceeds of rents collected, etc., which was contained in a leather valise near his bed. The robber seized the valise containing the money and was about getting away with it when the Doctor sprang from the bed, grasped the

retreating robber around the legs, felled him to the floor and shouted for help. The only other persons in the house at the time were the wife of the Doctor's hired man and two boys. The latter fled, but the lady was plucky and came to the rescue, beating the robbers with a club. In the struggle the robber kicked himself loose and the Doctor was seriously injured in the encounter, trying to defend his property; but the robber escaped with the booty. The Doctor at once sent to Exira for his attorney, H. F. Andrews, who promptly responded, although it was a bitter cold night, taking Richard W. Griggs along with him. On arriving at the residence of the Doctor, several of his neighbors, having learned of the outrage, were assembled there. The Doctor privately informed the lawyers that he believed he had a clue to the robbers, who had not then been identified; that in the struggle with the one he had attacked he had torn off his suspenders and a button with a strip of cloth attached, which he still possessed, and proceeded to produce it from under his pillow. The trophy was examined and it was thought it might lead to the identity of the culprits. Next morning the tracks of the robbers and their horses were discovered in the snow. With a team driven by Joseph Doner, the Doctor's hired man, Mr. Andrews and Mr. Griggs followed the trail several miles into Cass county, when a snow storm obliterated the tracks and the trail was lost. Returning to the Doctor's place, the captured suspenders and bit of cloth were again examined. It was thought that the cloth looked familiar and resembled the pants usually worn by the Doctor and which usually hung near his bed. Search was made for them without success and it was concluded that the robber had also stolen the Doctor's pants, and that the Doctor had pulled off the suspenders from his own pants in the struggle with him, which in the end proved true. The stolen valise and the pants were afterward found together not far from the residence, where they had been left by some one other than the robbers. In following the trail of the escaped robbers, the saddle cloth of one of them, which had been lost by them, was fortunately discovered, and it subsequently led to their identity; other facts developed which identified them beyond reasonable doubt. It appeared that others were associated with them and that the money was divided between the gang of villains who participated in the nefarious affair. One man who was killed in the county soon afterwards was said to have received a fine span of horses for taking the rogues from the county. The principal robbers soon left the community, but the money was never recovered. Doctor Ballard soon went to Council Bluffs and died there shortly afterward. Nothing further was done about the crime. Near the time of his death, the

Doctor informed the writer that the amount of his losses by thieves, trespassers, robbers, etc., in the past twenty years would aggregate fully twenty thousand dollars. And he also said: "Andrews, I am living among the wolves."

Hon. William F. Smith, late of Farrall, Wyoming, a few years since described some scenes in the home life of Doctor Ballard. He said: "In 1854 Dr. S. M. Ballard came from Iowa to Ohio to place his sons, Byron and Osceola, in school, and while my parents were visiting the family of Frederick Ballard they met the Doctor. I should say that one of the objects of the Doctor's visit was to purchase machinery for a saw-mill. My parents were wanting to locate where land was cheap and secure a home. Doctor Ballard gave a very glowing account of Iowa, and of Audubon county in particular, and offered them work at good wages until they could establish a home of their own, which was accepted. So, in the spring of 1854, we started down the Ohio river by way of St. Louis, and then up the Missouri river to Council Bluffs, Iowa. On account of low water, we were a long time making the trip, and then went to Doctor Ballard's place with teams. We had expected to find a fine, large house in good shape; but the house was a small log cabin of one room, eighteen by eighteen feet, and he had a fairly large log barn, where the men slept. When we arrived there, my brothers and myself went to the house and looked in at the door and the sight gave us a fright. The doctor was eating his supper out a pan, and a woman, one of Mr. Hyatt's family, was waiting on him. The Doctor spoke to us in a loud voice and said: "Come in, boys." But when we saw those long white whiskers and the strange surroundings we beat a hasty retreat for the wagons and told what we had seen. Our parents had to tell the Doctor about it, and we had a good laugh over it. We stopped at the Doctor's place. My father worked on the farm and my mother and sisters cooked for hired help. That fall my folks and the Doctor disagreed, and we quit him and moved to "Uncle Johnny" Jenkins's house, and soon afterward to Jimmy Bird's place in Cass county, where we lived that winter. Early the next spring we went back to the Doctor's place. The machinery for the saw-mill had arrived. With the farmhands and our own family and the mill crew, my poor mother and sisters had to work early and late to cook and wash for the outfit, making butter and caring for the milk from several cows, etc. The Doctor had put up several other buildings, so we had more room. Myself and brothers and the hired men slept in the hay-mow above the horses. * * * About this period the wife and family

of Doctor Ballard came out from Iowa City to the farm in Audubon county. (The sons of Doctor Ballard came to Audubon county in 1852.)

Doctor Ballard was first receiver of the United States land office at Kanesville (Council Bluffs), Iowa, in 1853. It is said that he once carried a large amount of public funds in specie from Kanesville to Iowa City in the false bottom of his buggy to conceal it and escape robbery. He was one of the proprietors of the Council Bluffs and Nebraska Ferry Company in 1853-54. He was a Whig, and a prominent man. The *Iowa Standard* was begun in 1841 at Iowa City, and suspended publication in 1848. It was bought about that time by Doctor Ballard, the name changed to the *Iowa City Republican*, and he continued its publication as the Whig organ of the party in Iowa. Among those employed on the paper were William P. Hepburn, Tom Ballard, a natural son of the Doctor; Clay Johnson, and others. We are not fully advised as to the history of the paper under the management of Ballard, or when he severed his connection with it.

Ballard was one of the founders of the Republican party in Iowa, along with such men as Grimes, Lowe, Kirkwood and others of that period. He was a member of the Republic state central committee in 1856. In 1859 he appears on the ticket for representative. He was of ability to have graced high political offices, but does not appear to have sought such preferment. He was patriotic and a sound Union man during the war, so far as his voice and vote went, but did not contribute financially to the party campaign expenses while residing in Audubon county. He sometimes attended state, district and county conventions as a delegate. During the war at one time he was sent by Governor Kirkwood on some mission to the Iowa soldiers in the army down the Mississippi river.

A remarkable instance occurred in the Republican state convention of 1875, when Doctor Ballard was chiefly responsible for the nomination of Hon. Samuel J. Kirkwood for governor for the third term. Probably no man ever went into a convention more confident of success than did Hon. James B. Weaver on that occasion. He had been a brilliant, gallant soldier, was justly popular as a politician, especially with the old soldier element of the party, and richly deserved the office as governor of Iowa. Doctor Ballard was a delegate to the convention. He and some of the old-guard Republicans did not take kindly to the candidacy of General Weaver, or, perhaps, Weaver did not sufficiently court their support. Their importance and influence was probably overlooked, or not properly considered. Some of the old-timers decided to give Kirkwood a complimentary vote for governor. When the nominations came on, and after the name of Weaver had

been presented as a candidate, Doctor Ballard arose, a majestic figure, with snowy-white hair, long flowing beard and eagle eye, his giant form towering above the assembly. With his powerful, leonine voice, he announced: "I nominate for governor that old war hoss, Sam J. Kirkwood." The magical effect attracted every eye and ear present. An alert supporter of General Weaver demanded: "By what authority does the gentleman from Audubon present the name of Governor Kirkwood?" Others shouted: "Governor Kirkwood is not a candidate. He won't have the office," etc. The Doctor impressively responded: "By authority of the great Republican party of Iowa." The psychological effect produced was instantaneous. That patriarchal figure and voice in the midst of Iowa's sons assembled won the contest beyond recall, and Kirkwood was promptly nominated, to the disappointment and chagrin of General Weaver and his followers. Never has a parallel to that act, of such momentous importance, occurred in the political history of Iowa. The shock was directed by the extemporaneous act of a single man—Doctor Ballard. It was a powerfully dramatic scene, which arose spontaneously, without preparation, on the spur of the moment.

Who can say that but for this act of Doctor Ballard, Hon. James B. Weaver would not have continued an ornament to the Republican party.

Many years ago, at the Walker house in Audubon, during court time, Doctor Ballard, Judge Reed, Judge Maxwell, the writer and others were having a pleasant evening together. The Doctor, being in a reminiscent mood, related a thrilling account of the experience of himself and "Uncle" John Jenkins, who were once lost in a snowstorm while out hunting. The story ran substantially in this way: "In December, 1852, the United States surveyors, including myself, were camped at Blue Grass Grove engaged in subdividing township 80, range 35 (now Leroy township). My friend, John S. Jenkins, and his son John came up from Big Grove to our camp for a hunt with me, game being plentiful. We two started off together, westward from camp. During the day a heavy snowstorm came on; we got bewildered, lost all idea of direction and wandered around long into the night, completely lost. At one time we heard a strange noise near us, as of many large animals running through the snow, making the peculiar whistling sound of the elk when startled. We supposed we had run into and startled a band of those animals, but it was too dark to see them. (The writer has heard this sound made by elk. By old hunters it is called 'Bugling,' and is made by the bull elk as a challenge or note of defiance. It is a peculiar sound and somewhat resembles the notes of a bugle.) Con-

tinuing our tramp later into the night, we entered a brush patch and stopped to rest, being tired out and hungry. Mr. Jenkins was in worse plight than myself and complained that his feet were hurting him. I suspected that his feet were frozen, which afterwards proved to be the case. We gathered fuel and started a fire. Mr. Jenkins proposed to remove his boots and examine his feet; but I persuaded him not to do so, as he would have difficulty in putting them on again. We made a bed of brush and dried grass and he laid down and slept, while I watched and tended the fire. Towards morning the clouds parted and I got a fair view of the Great Handled Dipper and the North star, and so fixed the direction in my mind. When morning came it was still cloudy and the sun was obscured all day. Jenkins awoke very much discouraged, still complaining of his feet, and expressed doubt that we should ever reach home again. I tried to encourage him and pointed out the direction I thought we should travel. He disputed me and said he thought we should travel in nearly the opposite course. I said, 'There is north,' pointing, as I believed, in that direction. He had no idea that I knew the direction any better than he did, and he replied: 'And who in h—, sir, told you that was north?' I explained to him of my seeing the North star while he had slept, and he cooled down, but apparently not convinced and despondent; said we were lost beyond hope of discovery; that no one would know where to search for us, and that if anyone attempted to find us there was hardly a chance of success, and that he believed we must perish. I urged that we should succeed by following the course I suggested. He admitted that he was in doubt what direction we ought to travel, and finally consented to follow me that day, but did not hope to succeed. We took up the march towards the east, as it afterwards proved. We came out on what must have been the main divide between the waters of the East and West Botna rivers, and there Mr. Jenkins rebelled and became more obstinate than before. He insisted we were traveling the wrong direction, and that we should change our course and proceed northwest along the divide. I was confident we were on the right course, but pleaded with him in vain. We shook hands, parted, and each pursued his chosen course, he to the northwest, along the divide, and I took a southeast course down a ridge, until nearly out of sight of each other, when, turning to take a parting look at him, I saw him wave his hat. I made a similar response and waited for him to return. When he joined me he said he had forgotten his promise to follow during the day, apologized and promised to make his word good. We proceeded again until Mr. Jenkins became more discouraged and complained. I carried his rifle to relieve him

and took him by the arm to encourage him to proceed. Late in the afternoon, in crossing a slough, his feet became entangled in the long, wet grass, matted down by the heavy snow, and he fell. I offered to assist him to arise, but he refused; said it was useless; that we were lost beyond help; that his feet were used up; that we were without food or fire and must perish; that he might as well stop where he was to punish himself by attempting to travel farther. I stooped down and struck him a smart blow with the back of my hand on his face. The effect was instantaneous. He sprang to his feet like a steel trap and demanded why I had insulted him. I told him it was to show him that he was not so near dead as he imagined, and that I had proved it. He accepted my explanation and we again proceeded. Upon reaching the top of another ridge I thought the surrounding country and lay of the land looked familiar. I believed we were in the vicinity of our camp and so informed my companion. I then remembered my dog, a favorite white hound, who was at the camp, and told Mr. Jenkins that if I could make 'Zack' hear my voice he would come to us. So I began to shout and halloo, long and loud, and kept it up. Soon I heard the hound bay and called the attention of Mr. Jenkins to it, but he was not convinced. He said we could not be near camp, and that I must have heard a wolf howl. But soon the dog came over the hill in full cry. I saw him, with the black spot on his head, coming towards us, and no mistake, and he soon reached us, plainly expressing his pleasure at seeing us. A little later Uncle Ben Hyatt, our cook, came following on the dog's track. When he got near enough I shouted for him to hurry back to camp and prepare some food for us. Uncle John clasped the dog around the neck and burst into tears, and ever afterwards declared that the dog saved our lives."

I had previously heard the Doctor tell the story, and Mr. Jenkins had also told it to me. When the Doctor's narrative was finished and his hearers had expressed their appreciation, I said to him: "Doctor, I think you told the story to a party of gentlemen at Exira several years ago." "Why do you say so?" said he. "Since I first heard you tell it, I have heard Mr. Jenkins tell it." "And don't he tell it as I do?" "Yes, with one exception." "And what is that?" "He didn't mention that you slapped him in the face." "But I did," said the Doctor. John T. Jenkins, of Brayton, says that he was at the camp at the time mentioned and well remembers the incident. He says that the people at the camp, Ben Hyatt, Byron Ballard, the Doctor's son, and others, were alarmed for the safety of his father and the Doctor, and were anxiously hoping all day for their return; that old "Zack" was uneasy and whined at times, and that all of a sudden he bawled out and

broke away from camp on the run over the hills. No one in camp had heard the Doctor's call, but the dog evidently had a keener ear, and dashed away to find his lost master. Neither of the participants knew exactly where their wanderings had taken them.

The writer surveyed land in this county for years in earlier times and became well acquainted with the lands in the west part of the county where this adventure took place. There used to be a little clump of hickory saplings in a deep ravine near the line between Douglas and Sharon townships near the west part of the county, which was, perhaps, the spot where Ballard and Jenkins stopped on the night as related. Mr. Jenkins more than once referred to this adventure with gratitude towards Doctor Ballard, and invariably expressed his belief that the Doctor had saved his life on that occasion. He was financially interested with Captain Perry and the Hendersons in contracts for the survey of several townships of government lands in Audubon county and perhaps elsewhere. His son Byron was actually engaged in the work as flagman and chainman. The Doctor was probably overseer of the working party.

During the last winter of his life he spoke about his son, "Bolly," as he was familiarly called, and, like King David of old, lamenting over his son Absalom, said that he could be a prince if he would be, intimating that he would be pleased for him to have the home place, but feared that if he should give it to him he would squander it. He suggested that there might be some of his descendants some time who might make good use of his property, if he only knew to whom to leave it. The terms of his will indicate that it was perhaps framed with such ideas in view. He left a handsome estate. Besides his lands and property here, he had large possessions in other places. At his death he gave his son Osceola a life estate in four hundred acres of land in Cass county, which he soon lost. To his daughter, Mrs. Robinson, he gave a life estate in nearly two thousand acres of land near Marne, Iowa, with remainder to her children after her death. The residue of his fortune went to his wife. The home place here has passed entirely out of possession of his descendants. Doctor Ballard was unfortunate in his family. Byron was killed by the falling of a tree; Eugene was drowned, and two daughters died young. He was the first senior warden of Iowa City Lodge No. 4, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, which was chartered on January 8, 1844.

Old settlers will recall the heroic figure of the old Doctor, with his black plug hat, mounted on his favorite saddle horse, "Old Tige," as he, in former times, rode about the county. He died at Council Bluffs in 1883.

Mrs. Ballard survived him, but has been dead many years. Their children were: Byron, unmarried; Virginia, who married George Robinson and is dead; Osceola is dead; Oletippe and another daughter are both dead.

DAVID EDGERTON.

David Edgerton visited Audubon county with Nathaniel Hamlin and others in March, 1851, and settled here in 1852. His first residence was a log cabin on lot 5, in section 3, Exira township. He had the title to the land upon which the town of Exira was laid and was nominal proprietor of the town; but Judge Daniel M. Harris was real owner of the undivided one-half thereof, and conducted the business of laying out and platting the town. Mr. Edgerton owned considerable other lands contiguous to Exira. He reserved all of block 4, Exira, for his home, upon which he erected his dwelling house and the present old barn on the same block. Part of his old dwelling is now embraced in the present residence of Mrs. Sturgeon, which, with the old barn, all on the same block, are owned by Mrs. Sturgeon. Mr. Edgerton sold out in 1867, and he and his family went to Kansas.

REUBEN CARPENTER.

Reuben Carpenter came to Audubon county in 1852 and settled in section 35, Exira township. He sold out there in 1853 to William H. H. Bowen and moved to section 18, Audubon township. His children were, Elijah, William (who married Martha Johnston), George, John, David, Henry, and several daughters.

THE HEATHS.

Milton Heath, a carpenter and farmer, married Elizabeth Parent. He came from Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1852, and lived first on Doctor Ballard's place; then moved a mile west of Ballard bridge, where he built a dwelling, made of poles covered with hay. He went to Shelby county in 1855, and there laid out the now obsolete town of Simoda. He went back to Indiana in 1860, returned to Audubon county in 1869, and lived about Oakfield and other places. He was a Republican. He died in 1897, and his wife died in 1873. Their children were: Hiram, referred to in the following paragraph; Josiah, who married Mary Huntsinger; Wilfred, who married Sarah Eastis; Albert, who married Caroline Goodale, and Arthur, who married Mary ———.

Hiram Heath came to Audubon county with his parents. He married in 1871, Evaline, daughter of Henry and Julia A. (Bolton) Gransberry. He was a farmer at Exira, and a Republican in politics. His children were, Henry M., who married Mary B. Kline; Elizabeth J., who married George B. Martin; Rosall, who married Monroe Higgins; Olga G., who married William Powers, and Winnie I., unmarried.

Mark Heath, a farmer, who married Lucy Driver, came from Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1852, and settled on the hill south of Oakfield, in section 29. He lived there the remainder of his life and died there. He was a Republican in politics and served as justice of the peace. His children were, Marcellus, who married Emma Brinckley; Lovice, married Chauncey Aldrich; C. Adelbert, married Francina Pottle; Kittie, married Frank Lambert.

Amhert Heath, brother of Mark and Milton, came from Indiana in 1857. He was a farmer and well digger. He was a Democrat and served as county judge. He lost his life in a well at the Huyck place in 1868. He married Loly A. Monts and after his death, his widow married David B. Beers. He was the father of the following children: Catherine Lovetta, who married William Gearheart; Rose Ella, married Henry Carpenter; Lewis Comb, married Ina Smith; Frank Byron, married Ida Merrick; Owen Elmer, married Grace Hawk; Martha Almeda, married Lewis M. Parrott.

William Henry Harrison Bowen married Eliza Watson. In 1853 he, with Walter J. Jardine and John Seifford and families, came here from Jones county, Iowa. Mr. Bowen bought out the claim of Reuben Carpenter and was a farmer. He went to Pikes Peak in 1860 and moved to Colorado in 1862. He returned to Audubon county in 1865, but later, went to Nebraska, where he lived several years and then returned to Cass county, near his old home. He was a Republican, a member of the board of supervisors in 1871-2, and the first assessor of Audubon county. He married for his second wife, Josephine Smith. His son, the late Hugh Bowen, succeeded to the home place many years ago. To William and Eliza Bowen the following children were born: Nancy Jane, who married Hon. William Walker; Rachel Elizabeth, married William B. Stone; John Wesley, married Nancy Cannon; Anna L., died unmarried; Sarah E., married William Bales; Hugh, married Maggie Selladay; Juliette, married Joseph W. Walker; Emma Caroline, married John Lorah; James W., died unmarried; Charles E., married Mary Allen. By his second wife, Mr.

Bowen had four children, Kittie, who married Leonard J. Whitney, Burns, Harry and Edward.

Peoria Irwin Whitted, son of William and Armena (Howard) Whitted, was born in Williamsport, Tennessee, February 29, 1832. He married in Audubon county on February 28, 1860, Louise C., daughter of Levi B. and Fannie (Boyls) Montgomery, and who was born in Hancock county, Illinois. Mr. Whitted accompanied his parents to Vigo county, Indiana; thence to Parke county, Indiana, in 1833; to Vermilion county, Indiana, in 1838; to Keokuk, Iowa, in 1845; to Muscatine and Ottumwa, Iowa, in 1850; to Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1851, whence he returned to Iowa City. In 1853 he came to Hamlin's Grove, Iowa. In the spring of 1857 he came to Exira, where he lived the remainder of his life. He was a Democrat, a member of the Christian church and an Odd Fellow. He was elected county surveyor in 1855, and held the office many years; was deputy sheriff in 1869 and assessor for several years. He was a prominent man and is frequently mentioned in this work. He died at Exira on December 29, 1907. His children were as follow: John Clinton, married Hester Cogle; Florence May, married Albert L. Sewell; Minnie Arena, married James D. Barber; Forest Bates, married Mabel Dickay; Elbridge Irving, married Blanche Myers; Carlton Calm, married Mildred Bechfold; Clara Bell, married Nels Johnson.

A NOTED CHARACTER.

J. Lyman Frost, with his son, Carlos, and Peoria I. Whitted, came from Iowa City to Audubon county in 1853. He was an old man, a widower, and lived alone in a shanty made of poles, near his son, Carlos, in the northwest part of section 35, Exira township. He was a contentious man and had a special faculty for stirring up the animals. He was an ardent Republican, a strong Union man, had no use for anyone not strictly up to the highest pitch of party requirements, and he practically demonstrated his opinions on all possible occasions. (See account of him in sketch of Nathaniel Hamlin.) He became postmaster at Hamlin's Grove during war times. He was heartily despised by the Democrats and was not in unison with many of his own party. He was a discordant element at best. One of the patrons of his postoffice was one Martin Shults, whom Frost took occasion publicly to call a "copperhead." Shults was a mild, inoffensive man, religiously inclined, and, although the imputation was not wholly mis-

applied, from the standpoint of the times, the insult rankled in his bosom. Later, at a public gathering in Oakfield, Shults spied his quarry, removed his coat and handed it to his good old wife, "Aunt Julie," remarking that he had a duty to perform, and then waded in and proceeded to "tan Frost's dog skin." That exercise performed, he proceeded to ride in haste to Exira in search of a justice to whom he might "plead guilty." But he was pursued by the constable, John Crane, and arrested for assault and battery. It was said that Crane was so desirous of gaining popularity that he overrode and injured a fine horse in making the arrest. And it was also said that his promptness in the matter afterwards cost him an election to office.

Mr. Frost was easily a party leader locally. He held the ear of Governor Kirkwood, with whom he was personally acquainted at Iowa City, and stood in with the administration at Washington. He made the weather and crop reports, etc.; received his contingent of government documents, seeds, etc., which he conscientiously distributed among the faithful. He was one of the first to raise an apple orchard and other tame fruit in the county. He was prompt and zealous in attending to party affairs and in managing the Republican political machinery in the county, being sometime chairman of the county central committee. But, after a disagreeable factional contest with the Ballards and others in a county convention at Green's school house, in 1868, he soured on party work and never afterwards took an active part in politics. He went to Nebraska with his son, Carlos, about 1884, when very aged.

Carlos E. Frost came here with his father from Iowa City in 1853, and was a farmer. He lived in the northwest quarter of section 35, Exira township. He was a Republican and a popular gentleman. He was clerk at the first county election, April 2, 1855; county treasurer, 1864-5, and during that period lived in Exira, in the Charles Chapin house, which was on the site of the present John Mertis residence, block 16, Exira.

In 1883 he was a merchant in Brayton, where his store was burglarized by the "Crooked Creek Gang." His son, Lew C. Frost, and son-in-law, Dan P. McGill, held the office of county surveyor. He moved to Stuart, Nebraska, about 1884. His children were, Lew C., who married Alice Hartman; Salina; Eva, who married Dan P. McGill; Edward, Eliza and another daughter.

Richard Gault, son of Francis and Deborah (Stewart) Gault, was born in Belfast, Ireland, August 21, 1830, and was married in Audubon county, May 1, 1860, to Mary Leffingwell, daughter of Alvin and Paulina (Leffingwell) Herrick, and who was born in Massachusetts about 1832.

Mr. Gault came to Philadelphia with his parents, about 1837; thence to Wisconsin in 1851; to Appanoose county, Iowa, in 1853, and to Hamlin's Grove in 1854. He served as clerk for Nathaniel Hamlin, and was clerk of the district court in 1861-2. About 1863 he settled on a farm in section 9, Exira township, where he lived many years and where his wife died. During the last years of his life he resided in Exira. He was a Democrat and Odd Fellow and a Knight of Pythias. He died in Exira, April 13, 1904. His children, who were born in Audubon county, were: Henry Franklin, who married first, Dora Smith, and second, Melissa Cook; Augusta Collins, married Naomi Campbell; Mildred Ann, married John B. Hash; Charles Richard, who first married Maud Wilcutt, and second, Anna Glasscock; Caroline, married Ernest D. Powell; Anna Belle, married Charles W. Houston; Mary Leffingwell, married Albert Britner.

THE HERRICKS.

The Herrick lineage is a proud one. It is an old one, extending back to the period when English people bore but a single name, and it was then Eric. But, through various transformations and the prefix of the Cockney "h," it became (H)eyricke, which, in later times, became Herrick. It is traditional that the very ancient family of the Ericks descended from Eric, the Forrester, a great commander, who raised an army to oppose the invasion of William the Conqueror into England, 1066, by whom he was vanquished; but he was afterwards chosen to command some of the forces of that king. In old age he returned to his estate in Leicestershire, where the descendants became free tenants, holding two virgates, the fourth of a hide, or about fifty acres of land, which they held on payment of an annual quit-rent to the king of a pound of pepper. Eyrick, of Great Stretton and of Houghton in Leicester, England, in time of King Henry III, 1216-72, was a lineal descendant of Eric, the Forrester.

Henry Heyricke, or Herrick, was tenth in lineal descent from Eyrick last named. He was born at Beaumont, England, August 6, 1604, and was named by command of Prince Henry, eldest son of King James I. His sponsors were Sir David Murray, Sir John Spellman and Lady Aston. He emigrated to Virginia; thence to Salem, Massachusetts, where he married Editha, daughter of Hugh and Alice Laskin. They were members of the First church in Salem, 1629. He was made a freeman, May 18, 1631. They moved to Bass River, now Beverly, Massachusetts, July 4, 1667, where they joined the church the same year. They were founders of the

Herrick family in New England. Their descendants are numerous and are well settled over the Northern and Western states.

Alvin Herrick was supposed to have descended from Henry Herrick, of Salem, Massachusetts, 1629, but his ancestry has not been traced. He was the son of Elisha Herrick and was born in Westfield, Massachusetts. He married Pauline Leffingwell. He was a dairyman at Westfield. He moved to Chautauqua, New York, as early as 1844; thence to Buffalo, New York; thence to Beloit, Wisconsin, about 1850. In the spring of 1853 he migrated again, and arrived in Audubon county in June, of that



ALVIN HERRICK

year, accompanied by his son, Urbane, and family. He at once bought out the claim of Ralph Arthur Decker, which had a cabin on it, and in the same year entered the land from the government, it being the east half of the northeast quarter of section 17, now Exira township, and also the southeast quarter of the same section, embracing some first-class farm land and the best timber in the county, which shows that he did not come here empty handed. Part of the present farm of his grandson, Julius E. Herrick, is situated in his original purchase. The remainder of his family came in 1854 and brought with them several hundred sheep, the first brought to Audubon county. "Folly" Herrick, his son, says that it was his job to tend the sheep, and that they were herded along the ridge north of the road, which runs on the north line of section 16. Mr. Herrick sold his farm land

to his son, Elisha, and about 1856 moved to a place half a mile north, in section 9, where he erected a dwelling, built for him by Howard J. Green and Alfred Eddy, which is still in existence. About 1863 Mr. and Mrs. Herrick separated, and she, with several of the children, Coit, Curtis, Elisha, Judson D., Orra and Lawrence, emigrated to Stockton, California. Herrick sold his home place to another son, Augustus C. Herrick, and son-in-law, Richard Gault, and it was known for many years as the Gault place. About 1865 his son, Judson D., called "Folly," returned from California, and the father and son moved to Bear Grove, Iowa, but soon returned to Audubon county, where he died in December, 1875. He was about five feet and six inches in stature; dark complexion, hair and eyes. His descendants are numerous, being mostly farmers and Democrats, and have been substantial, prosperous citizens; people who attend to their own affairs and let others alone; honest, honorable, kind, social neighbors—good types of old Yankee stock.

Alvin Herrick's children were as follow: Caroline, married Lucius Collins; Edson, married Mrs. Mary A. West, nee Bigelow; Sarah Ann, married John Benedict; Urbane, married Charlotte Spurling and Keziah Smith; Coit, married Helen Bartlett; Emerson, married Mary Seiford; Curtis, married Hannah Holdcroft; Mary, married Richard Gault; Elisha, never married; Augustus C., married ——— Teters; Judson deForest, married Mrs. Louisa Strickland, nee Roeser; Orra, married William Arnett; Lawrence, married Helen Teters.

Edson Herrick married Mrs. Mary A. West, nee Bigelow, who had a son, named C. Dwight West, by her former husband. They came here from Beloit, Wisconsin, bringing with them her son, who still lives here. But, fearing Indian troubles, they returned to Wisconsin, and came back to Audubon county in June, 1856. He was a farmer and a Democrat. He entered the northwest quarter of section 15, Exira township, but settled on an adjoining tract in the northeast corner of section 16, where William Carpenter and other afterwards lived. He next built a residence farther west in the same section, which he sold to G. T. Poage. It contained one of the first plastered rooms in the county. About 1864 he bought the farm first improved by his brother, Urbane Herrick, in sections 8 and 9, Exira township, where his son-in-law, Walter B. Temple, now lives, and where he lived until near the time of his death. He was a medium-sized man, with dark complexion, hair and eyes. His name may justly go down to posterity as a model citizen. He was one who had no enemies. Neither should his particular by-word, "By Jocks," be forgotten. He survived his

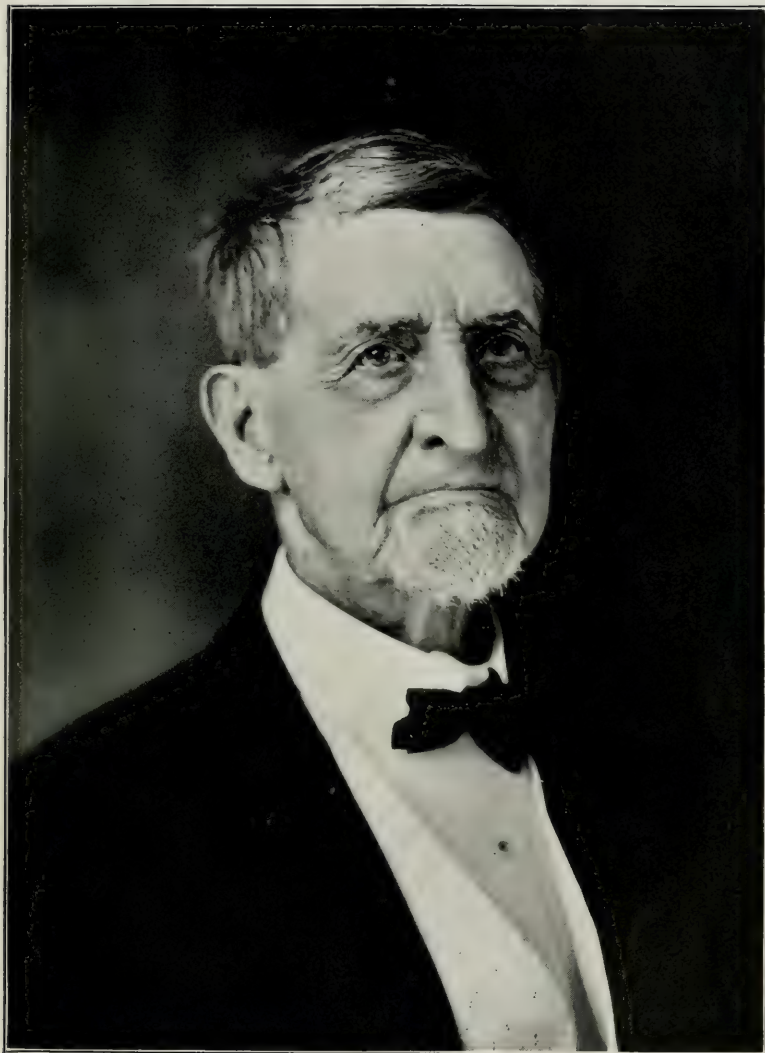
wife, but both have been dead many years. Their children were: Ella Mary, who married Walter B. Temple; Ida F., married Henry B. Houston, and is dead; Lilly Ann, married Elihu Myers; Emma P., married J. Mack Love; Julius Earl, married Jessie Wilcutt; Cora, married, first, Grant Brown and, second, Lloyd Hinkle, and Laura B. died unmarried.

Urbane Herrick married, first, Charlotte Spurling, who died, and he then married Keziah Smith. He was a farmer and a Democrat. He came from Beloit, Wisconsin, with his father in 1853. He entered and settled on the place where Walter B. Temple, Esq., now lives, which he sold to a Doctor Hager, in Illinois, who sold it to Edson Herrick about 1864. He then settled on and improved the farm in section 36 in Hamlin township, where Willie Jenson now lives. Then he moved to lot 12, in section 3, Exira township, and built the present residence in the northeast corner thereof. It embraced the townsite of Exira Heights and the site of the school house at Exira. He was justice of the peace and sheriff. He was a small man, with dark complexion, hair and eyes. He died at Exira many years ago, and his widow is now the wife of Frank Persing, of Exira. The children by his first wife were, Urbane Scott, deceased, who married Clara M. Blackmar; Orra D., married Samuel Beers; Lorinda D., married Hiram Young; Rosa M., married Clark Gray. By his second wife, Mr. Herrick became the father of three children: Robie K., who married first, John Peterman and, second, Michael Flynn; Mary E., married Hans P. Hansen, and Maggie E., married Grant Smith and J. O. Howard.

Judson DeForest Herrick, who was born in Chautauqua, New York, in 1844, came to Audubon county from Beloit, Wisconsin, in 1854. He went to California in 1863; returned to Audubon county in 1865, and moved to Bear Grove, Iowa, and there married Mrs. Louisa Strickland, nee Roeser. He later returned to Audubon county and settled on a farm in section 31, in Greeley township, where he lived many years. He is now retired and lives in the town of Exira. He is a Democrat. Physically, he is a small man, with dark complexion, hair and eyes. His children are: Alvin, who married Sarah Winchell; Lenora, married John Crees; Curtis, married Edna White; Herbert, married Harriet Jenkins, and Essie M., married George Scott.

HON. DANIEL M. HARRIS.

Judge Daniel M. Harris was a gentleman with whom it was a pleasure to have been acquainted. No man in Audubon county, during the period



HON. D. M. HARRIS

of his residence here, from 1854 to 1862, did more than he, as a citizen and public officer, for the advancement of the community. He was worthy, genial, friendly and a highly-intelligent gentleman. He was born in Dayton, Ohio, July 21, 1821. In 1837 he went to Williamsport, Tennessee, where, in 1841, he married Martha Minerva White. He was a carpenter and merchant in Williamsport, whence he migrated and arrived at Hamlin's Grove on November 8, 1854. He settled in section 36, now Exira township, improved land there and worked at his trade. In 1857 he moved to section 14, now Audubon township, and improved land there.

He was elected county judge in 1855 and held the office until 1862. It was the most important office in the county, its duties embracing many now exercised by the board of supervisors, relative to elections, taxation, roads, and the general county business, besides jurisdiction in probate matters, and concurrent jurisdiction with justices of the peace. Most of the public county records were installed under his direction, and many of the first records were written with his own hand, showing very neat penmanship, and intelligent, painstaking work, a monument to his memory. He was the first lawyer in the county, and the factotum for all kinds of legal and official business for the people of the county during the period from 1854 to 1861, inclusive, which compares favorably with that conducted at the present time. This is remarkable when it is considered that Iowa was then in its infancy and that the forms and methods of transacting such affairs were not then well settled. Lawyers and officers were then required to make their own forms of documents and legal records, without the aid of the codes, hand books of forms, practice and procedure which are now possessed.

Judge Harris was highly esteemed as a citizen and his friends were co-extensive with his acquaintance. If he had enemies, they were few and were confined to his rivals. His integrity was unquestioned. He was an eminently public-spirited man. In 1855-6 he originated the idea and assisted to build the first school house in the county, a log building at Hamlin's Grove, a private enterprise, erected by the donations and labor of the settlers. In 1856-7 he and Peoria I. Whitted erected the first public school house in the county, at the cost of two hundred and sixty-five dollars, built by subscription, at Audubon City (Hamlin's Grove).

In 1857 Judge Harris bought from David Edgerton for four hundred dollars, an unrecorded one-half interest in the land upon which the town of Exira was laid out and platted. And while the business was conducted in the name of Mr. Edgerton, Harris was the real promoter and did the busi-

ness. The first sale of lots was on May 7, 1857, Mr. Harris being the auctioneer, and the sale aggregated one thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars. He reserved all of block 8 in the town for his own home lot, and in the same year built for himself the first dwelling in town. This he sold, about 1860, to William P. Hamlin, and then built for himself another dwelling, which stood where the Park hotel is located. Soon afterwards he built another building, about sixteen feet square, on block 8, for a carpenter shop, where Ernest Voss's residence is situated, and which was afterwards used for a postoffice. It was sold to the county, moved upon the public square and used for the county offices until 1874, when it degenerated into a beer saloon. The same year he originated a plan for building the first school house at Exira, and which was erected with less than one hundred dollars in actual cash. The contract price of the building was one thousand three hundred dollars. The taxpayers brought to the contractor grain, labor, lumber, etc., for which the county treasurer gave a receipt as for cash, and the contractor receipted to the treasurer for it. And so the house was erected and paid for.

Judge Harris served as postmaster at Exira from 1857 to 1861. He was elected representative to the Legislature in 1859 from the twenty-sixth district, composed of the counties of Audubon, Guthrie, Harrison and Shelby, and served in the sessions of the ninth General Assembly. He said: "I supported, as representative, all the war measures of Iowa, and was as good a real Union man as any in Iowa. I was opposed to much of the legislation of the Republican party of that day, believing then, as I do now, that much of it was for the purpose of robbing the people of the South, whom I consider as much entitled to the protection of the United States government as the people of the North." He supported Douglas for President in 1860. It is said that at the beginning of the war, in 1861, he made a strong Union speech at Exira, at which the Democrats, and especially Uncle Natty Hamlin, were offended. John T. Jenkins, of Brayton, says, that when he enlisted in 1861, Judge Harris praised his conduct in going to war and said that it was the duty of young men to serve their country in time of its peril. His son, William J. Harris, enlisted in 1862, in Company B, Thirty-ninth Iowa Infantry, and was captured at Altoona in 1864.

The Harris home at Exira was noted for hospitality and was the favorite resort of the elite of Audubon county in early times, being the scene of gayety, festivity and pleasure. The normal condition was that the

house was full to overflowing, and all comers were always made welcome and happy. The family rarely set down to the table alone at meal time.

Judge Harris moved to Panora, Iowa, in the spring of 1862, and became a member of the firm of Harris & Fogg, prominent lawyers there. At the same time he was proprietor and editor of the *Guthrie County Ledger*, notorious in its opposition to the Republican party and administration. In 1867 he was the Democratic candidate for lieutenant-governor of Iowa. He moved to Missouri Valley in 1868 and there conducted the *Missouri Valley Times*. Returning to Exira in 1873, he conducted the *Audubon County Defender*, and later, moved to Atlantic, Iowa, and there established the *Cap Sheaf*. He again removed to Missouri Valley, about 1876, and continued the publication of the *Missouri Valley Times* the remainder of his life.

Exceptions were taken to Judge Harris along political lines, as a newspaper editor and proprietor and politician, especially during war times and the reconstruction period. He was prominent in the Democratic party and in harmony with its doctrines, tenets and traditions. He denounced the war in strong terms, and was in sympathy with the South. His paper was considered detrimental to the Union cause. The soldiers, who were then dodging rebel bullets in the army, looked with disfavor and hatred upon those in the rear who were acting against their best interests, and regarded those who were not with them as against them. It was a desperate situation—a case of life or death to the soldiers who were fighting in a just cause for their rights—which is now the verdict of the world, including the Southern people themselves. To err is human. Judge Harris probably lived to regret some things he said and did. Near the time of his death he published in his paper: "In looking back over the past ninety years' history of our life, we feel that, with our experience, if we had the journey to make over, we would shun politics as we would a plague." In the year of his death there appeared in his paper an article from his own pen on the centennial of the birth of Lincoln, the tenor of which was all that a patriotic American could desire; but in marked contrast with the sentiments expressed in his earlier writings. He was for many years a Free Mason and an Odd Fellow. He died at Missouri Valley, October 9, 1911. Mrs. Harris died in 1898. Their children were as follow: Mary Isabella, married John Crane; William James, married Flora Townsend; Daniel Webster, never married; Clarinda Campbell, married John Lahman; John Wiley, married Hattie Toft; Robert Henry, married Frances Chapman; Ellis Nathaniel,

married Essie Rainberger; Edwin Freeman, married Emma Jones; Virginia Tennessee, married Will Rutledge; Emma Eudora, married Charles Russell.

THE LEWISES.

Thomas T. Lewis married Sarah G. Meek, a sister to Rev. Richard C. Meek. They lived in Wayne county, Indiana, whence they moved to Niles, Michigan, in 1833. The family then migrated to Jones county, Iowa; thence to Kansas. Mr. Lewis had died before the family came here, and Mrs. Lewis lived with her son, Isaac, afterwards. The family, consisting of three sons, Richard M., Thomas S., and Isaac V. D., and their families, and a married daughter, the wife of Dennis Parmeley, came to Audubon county in October, 1854.

Richard Meek Lewis, who married Elizabeth Lewis, sister of Hon. William Walker, was a carpenter, who settled in section 26, now in Exira township, and sold his place to Whitman Wilcox. It is now part of the Benjamin F. Simpson estate. They then settled and lived many years in Oakfield; moved to Sheridan, Wyoming; thence to Casper, Wyoming. He was a class leader and prominent in the Methodist church many years. He died at Casper. Before marriage to Mr. Lewis, Mrs. Lewis had a daughter, Malvina, who married Thomas Roland, who settled in Audubon county. Mr. Lewis died in Casper. He had two daughters, Josephine, who married H. Moffit, and Albertine, who married William Allan Hamlin.

Thomas Shelton Lewis, married, first, Josephine B. Caylor, and, second, May Jorden. He was a farmer and a Democrat. He settled in section 25, Exira township. After the death of his first wife he moved to another place, about a mile west of his former home. He was the first county judge in 1855. In his official capacity he laid out the town of Dayton, as the first county seat of Audubon county, on July 9, 1855, on the land of his uncle, Rev. Richard C. Meek, the east half of the northwest quarter of section 22, Exira township. His first farm adjoined that of his brother, Isaac, and for many years they were embraced in Audubon civil township as the county was originally divided. The township was overwhelmingly Democratic and it was his fortune for many years to hold the office of justice of the peace; and he also often served as judge of election. In early times, before he was admitted to the bar, he figured in actions before justices of the peace and inferior tribunals. Some amusing incidents transpired relative to him in his legal capacity. Once he was counsel for a party sued on a promissory note. The defendant, under oath, denied his signature to the note, and the

affidavit was prepared by Mr. Lewis. The proof was overwhelming that the signature to the note was genuine, and the man was afterwards prosecuted for perjury before John A. Hallock, justice of the peace, for making the false affidavit, the present writer acting for the prosecution. Mr. Griggs defended and the defendant made an affidavit for change of venue, in which he swore that he could not obtain justice before Mr. Hallock, or Mr. Harrington, or Mr. Smart, who were justices of the peace, or before any other justice of the peace in Audubon county, except T. S. Lewis. And the case was sent to Mr. Lewis for trial. Of course, the state could not obtain a change of venue from him. The defense attempted to exclude from the evidence the false affidavit of the defendant, in which he swore that his name signed to the note sued on was not his genuine signature. The trial took up a day and part of the night, and the contest was over the admission of the affidavit in evidence. It was repeatedly offered and admitted, only to be stricken out on objection of defendant's counsel, the court being too ready to accept any subterfuge offered. The affidavit was not only false, but it compromised Mr. Lewis, who had prepared and filed it for the defendant. The situation was uncomfortable for the court, as well as for the defendant. Finally the court suggested—I believed to assist me—"Mr. Andrews, state your question thusly." And the interrogatory was framed accordingly. Mr. Griggs apparently supposed that the court was about to admit the evidence, but, out of abundant obstinacy and force of habit, objected, supported by the usual harangue, when, to the amazement of every one present, the court sustained the objection to his own question, cunningly observing: "I suggested the question to enable the court to be consistent with its former ruling." The laugh was certainly on me with a vengeance. Uncle Charley Gray, a bright old lawyer, present, exploded with laughter, and said that it was the most ridiculous performance he ever witnessed in court. The prosecution was abandoned in despair.

On another occasion, Mr. Churchill, of Atlantic, was trying a case before Mr. Lewis, where Mr. Griggs and John W. Scott were defending. The plaintiff sought to introduce the testimony of the wife of defendant against her husband, to which proper objection was made, and a heated discussion arose over it. The court ruled that the lady should answer, upon which Griggs directed the witness not to answer. But she said: "The court orders me to answer." "Never mind what he says. You are not compelled to testify against your husband. Observe my directions and I will protect you." The court informed Griggs that he was in contempt, and that he should fine him if he repeated his conduct. Mr. Griggs replied that he re-

spected the court, but that he had utter contempt for his ruling, and the court fined him. The contest continued along the same line until Griggs was repeatedly fined, when an adjournment was taken. During intermission Mr. Lewis and Mr. Griggs, who were personal friends, had a private interview, and when court convened "His Honor" announced: "I was not aware of the position of counsel in this matter, and the fines for contempt are remitted." Then Mr. Churchill interfered and objected to the order of court, when Mr. Scott took a hand, pointedly asked Mr. Churchill if it was any of his business, and offered to whip him on short notice. Churchill admitted that it was not his affair, and the case proceeded again, with ill temper between counsel. Another question arose and was discussed pro and con until the lawyers got weary and sat down, when the court inquired: "What is the question, gentlemen?"

Years ago there was a place near the center of Audubon township, called "Indian Grove," from the fact that it was a large tract of burr oak trees, which were desirable for fence posts and were slyly sought and appropriated by some of the new settlers in that vicinity by "jayhawking" them. Mr. Griggs was employed to prosecute the offenders and proceeded to the scene of action, accompanied by the justice of the peace, Mr. Lewis, and the sheriff, Mr. Comrardy. Arriving there, they surprised the trespassers at work and took them redhanded, cutting down trees and loading timber, causing a panic and stampede. Some of the bushwhackers escaped, but three were arrested, including a preacher, who in the "skeddadle" lost his plug hat and, in attempting to rescue it, was nabbed. Court was held on the field, occupying a stump for the forum. Fines and costs were assessed calculated to discourage further transgressions. The court and counsel returned well satisfied with their success. The affair was afterward styled "The Circle Court of Audubon County." Mr. Lewis was admitted to the bar along in the seventies. He moved to Atlantic, Iowa, where he died in 1904.

His children by his first wife were, Emery V., who married Mary ———; Eliza, deceased, who married Thomas Adams; Eldora, who married, first, Roland Strahl and, second, Smith Burton; Marilla, married Bert Poage; Minnie, married Samuel Crane. By his second wife, Mr. Lewis became the father of Herman, Thomas S. and Todd.

Isaac VanDorsey Lewis, carpenter and farmer, married Mary Jane White. He resided many years in section 26, Exira township, on the west side of the highway opposite from his brother, Thomas S., and, later, a short distance north in section 24. While living at this place, his house was

burned. He has since lived many years with his son, Elbert, in section 22. He is a Democrat and has been a prominent citizen. He was one of the judges of election at the organization of the county, in 1855, and has been assessor, trustee, school director, school treasurer and county supervisor. He was a member of the first Methodist church society organized in the county, and the scribe, in 1855, and for many years a faithful worker and supporter of the church. A large amount of information concerning the history of Audubon county for this work was obtained from him. Mrs. Lewis died years ago. Their children are: Elbert, who married Elizabeth Slonaker; Edward, married Blanch E. Spry; Estella, married Ralph Hawk; Henry Clay, married Bertha Spry; William E., married Winifred Hawk; Malvina, married Charles Spry.

Bryant Milliman was born in Sandusky county, Ohio, November 16, 1828. His parents died when he was two years old and he lived with his grandfather, near Niagara Falls, New York, until fifteen years old, when he went to Fort Wayne, Indiana. He was married there on December 5, 1852, to Jane Heath, sister of Amherst, Milton and Mark Heath. Mr. Milliman and wife came with a team from Fort Wayne and arrived in Audubon county in June, 1854. He soon became owner of the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter and lots 17, 18 and 19, in section 4, Exira township, having bought the claims of William Powell and William Shirley to some of these tracts of land, and the remainder was entered from the government. He owned over one hundred acres of this land and resided on it at his death. His first house and barn were erected on lot 17. The old house now forms the kitchen of the dwelling of Miss Amber Kelsey in the town of Exira. He was a Democrat. He died in August, 1912. "Aunt Jane" lives on the old homestead. Their children were: William H., unmarried; Frank, who went blind and died unmarried; Charles N., married Ione Brinkerhoff; George W., married Mrs. Maggie Johnson; Jessie M., unmarried; Marsh Edgar, married Lillie Johnson.

Miles Beers, wife and family, came from Delaware county, New York, in 1854, and settled on section 18, Exira township. He was a farmer and a Democrat. He was the first treasurer and recorder of Audubon county in 1855. His farm is now owned by Owen F. Ide, Esq. He and his wife died many years ago. Their children were, John W., unmarried; David B. and Jane, who married Oliver Smith.

John W. Beers came with his father. He was one of the clerks at the first election in Audubon county in April, 1855, at which he was elected clerk of the district court and county surveyor. He died early.

David B. Beers and his father lived together many years, until his father's death. He married, first, late in life, Mrs. Lowly A., widow of Amherst Heath. For his second wife, he married Mrs. Leigan. He was a farmer and a school teacher. He succeeded to his father's farm. After marriage he lived in section 29, Exira township, on his wife's estate, but is now living in Brayton, Iowa. He is a Democrat and served as county superintendent and county surveyor. His children are, Eva, who married Calvin Dimick; Nellie, married Mr. Badd, and Lona C., also married.

Samuel Smith was born near Liverpool, England, and married Mary Farrell. He was a farmer and gardener. The family left Liverpool and, six weeks later, landed in New Orleans; thence he went to Cincinnati, Ohio, during the holidays of that year, and located in Clifton, a suburb of that city, and thence to Loveland, Ohio, two years later. In the spring of 1854 they came to Audubon county. (See sketch of Samuel M. Ballard.) He bought land in section 14, Hamlin township, which he sold to Josephus Lewis. His wife died in 1856-7, and, late in life, he married Mrs. Louann Bailey, and went to live on her estate in section 14, Exira township, where he soon died. He was an upholder of the Union and a stanch Republican. His sons, John, James and William, were soldiers in the Union army. The children born to him were as follow: Betsey, who remained in England, and died in 1856 or 1857; Sarah, who died in Ohio in 1856; Mary F., married James Dalton; John F., unmarried; Eliza, married John W. Dodge; William F., married Cimanthia Hamlin; James, married Elizabeth O'Connell; Samuel, unmarried; a son who died at sea, and Lizzie E., who married James Peaslee.

Rev. Richard Collins Meek was born in Kentucky, whence he went to Wayne county, Indiana, where he was educated, taught school and entered the ministry in the Methodist church. He preached in Indiana until 1833, then went to Niles, Michigan, and continued preaching in northern Indiana and in Michigan until 1850. When the Methodist church split, in 1844, he joined the Methodist church, South. He went to Holt county, Missouri, whence he came to Audubon county in 1855. He bought his first home here from Walter J. Jardine in section 27, in what is now Exira township. He entered, and also secured by purchase, several hundred acres of brush land east and south of the "Big Grove." The town of Dayton, in section 22, was laid out on his land. He was a Democrat, and his sympathies were with the South. During the war he was at an Indian mission school in Kansas, and returned here at the close of the war, in 1865. He was deeply interested in religious affairs, and was a preacher of more than

ordinary ability, but exceedingly old-fashioned. He often preached here to attentive audiences. His wife was Eliza Tatman, better known as "Aunt Meek." They were truly pious people, and of most unblemished characters. She was a homeopathic physician, but not a general practitioner. He bought the old first school house in Exira, and converted it into a dwelling, where he sometimes lived, and alternately on his farm. Once, in early times, there



REV. R. C. MEEK AND WIFE

was a log-rolling just across the county line south of Ballard's timber, to put up a log cabin. As was usual on such occasions, they had some whisky to help the job along. While the work was progressing, the crowd saw Mr. Meek approaching and proposed to joke him. Knowing that he opposed tippling, they offered him the bottle and invited him to drink. Good naturedly, he accepted the bottle, remarking: "Yes, I think I will. Mrs. Meek has been wanting some to make 'Camfine,' and will be pleased to get it, thank you." And he put it in his pocket and rode away. The boys

concluded that the joke didn't work as intended. He died on his farm about 1873-4. After his death, there was considerable controversy over his estate. He attempted to convey a large part of it to the church and to other kindred purposes, contrary to law, as it turned out. The provisions of the will in that respect were defeated. John M. Griggs displayed marked ability in conducting the cases for the estate, and recovered most of the property for Mrs. Meek.

Griggs's success with the business exalted him to the top notch in the estimation of "Aunty," besides netting him a handsome reimbursement for his professional skill and service. And, perhaps, learning that he was the son of a Methodist presiding elder, did not decrease her admiration. At any rate, from that time onward he stood in "high feather" with Mrs. Meek—so much so, that she made it a point to frequently consult his opinion on divers subjects. During the "grasshopper year," 1875, the prospect of losing the crops by those pests, looked probable. One day, in the worst of the scare, "Aunty" called at John's office to take advice whether it would be propitious to call the people together for a general meeting to pray to have the grasshoppers removed, and earnestly sought his best judgment on the subject in the very best of good faith. John was puzzled for once. It was out of his line. So he cautiously told the old lady: "It can do no harm to try." And then the spirit of mischief and mirth tempted him further to advise: "When the people come to the meeting, let them all go down into the timber and each secure a good brush, and then they can kill a great many grasshoppers in that way." She accepted his remark with a coolness which savored of her doubt of his sincerity. However, about that time the hoppers unanimously rose up in a twinkling and flew away, never since to return. Who can say whether the good intentions of "Aunty" Meek did not hasten their departure? She was a strong temperance woman, a thorn in the flesh in her day to the "booze venders," and she actively engaged in prosecution of the dealers in intoxicating liquor. Mr. Meek and his good wife were childless.

THE HALLOCKS.

Isaac Peter Hallock, Sr., was a lineal descendant of Peter Hallock, who came from Hingham, Norfolk, England, to New Haven, Connecticut, in 1640, and who settled at Southold, Long Island, New York. He was born in Clinton, New York, January 6, 1802, and married Abigail Howland Smith, a native of Massachusetts. He moved from New York state to

Chicago in 1830, and soon settled in Kendall county, Illinois, where he lived many years. He then went to Earlville, Illinois, where he was engaged in the lumber business a short time. In 1854-5 he and his son-in-law, Erasmus D. Bradley, bought, from Samuel B. Hopkins, the John S. Jenkins claim in section 20, now Exira township, and upon which Mr. Bradley and his partner, Alva B. Brown, afterwards laid out the town of Oakfield upon Mr. Bradley's portion. The balance of the purchase remains in possession of the Hallocks to the present time. Mr. Hallock and his son, Isaac, and perhaps other members of the family went to Omaha, Nebraska, about the time of making this purchase, but returned to Oakfield in 1856, and permanently settled there on the site of the present Hallock homestead. They resided with their son, Isaac, who succeeded to his father's estate, which is now possessed by a grandson, Isaac Percy Hallock. They were Quakers. He and his sons were stanch Republicans. He served as county judge in 1863-4, and afterwards was postmaster and justice of the peace. Both died at Oakfield years ago. Their children were as follow: Elizabeth, who married Thomas Dissmore; Richard S., married Julia Burr; Julia Ann, married Erasmus D. Bradley; John Addison, married Catherine Crane; Sarah Melissa, married Joel H. Basham, and Isaac Peter, married Malinda Ann Norton.

Richard S. Hallock, M. D., married Julia Burr. He came from Omaha, Nebraska, to Oakfield, in 1856, where he was a successful physician and surgeon many years. He owned several farms and timber lands. He was surgeon of a United States colored regiment in the Union army. He was a Republican in politics. He moved to Salida, Colorado, where he died about 1890. He was the father of the following children: Robert Burns, who married Ossia Orton; Kansas Irene, married Hardy M. Clark; Julia, married George Simmons; Jennie, married William Fuller, and Burr.

Hon. John Addison Hallock married Catherine, daughter of Daniel and Ann (Eckman) Crane. He came to Audubon county about 1856, and was a farmer and successful school teacher. He settled on lot 13, section 3, adjoining the town of Exira on the east. He taught school in Guthrie Center, at Exira and at the Green school. As the town increased his land was required for suburban residences, and now forms a large part of the town. The Congregational church was built on his land. A Republican in politics, he was clerk of the district court, 1863-4; justice of the peace, 1868, and later representative. In 1878 he was a merchant at Exira, but moved to Salida, Colorado, in the eighties, where Mrs. Hallock died. He

was an agnostic. There was an unusual amount of gun play in this family. The son, Charles, was accidentally wounded by a mob in Colorado; George shot and killed Colbert Strahl and at the same time wounded Jesse Millhollin near Oakfield, in 1883; Willis was shot and seriously wounded in Elkhorn the same year, in the celebrated horse thief mob case, and Frank was afterwards shot and killed in Colorado. The children were: Charles, who married Anna Burbank; George, married Lucy Norton; Willis, married Belle Overholt; Frank, Grace and Ray.

Isaac Peter Hallock, Jr., was born in Kendall county, Illinois, on March 21, 1840. He married at Oakfield, Iowa, in 1868, Malinda, the daughter of William Canfield and Harriet Ruth (Thayer) Norton, and who was born at Springwater, New York, May 16, 1845. He was a farmer, stock grower and merchant. He came to Oakfield in 1856, with his father, before the town was laid out, and they afterwards lived there together the remainder of their lives. He was a quiet, busy man, generally loved and respected by his kindred and neighbors. He had a large landed estate and was a wealthy man at his death. At one time he owned a flouring-mill at Oakfield and had a general store there several years. He had a fine deer park, containing a large herd of native wild deer, which finally escaped and were lost. He was a Republican, was county supervisor in 1883, and held local offices. His landed estate is now possessed by his sons, Keese and Percy. He is dead and his wife died in 1907. Their children were: Harriett Abbie, who married John Curry; Clarence Keese, married Olive Jenkins, and Isaac Percy, unmarried.

Hon. William Walker, son of Joseph and Catherine (Sheridan) Walker, was born in Huron county, Ohio, March 2, 1834. On February 18, 1858, he married Nancy Jane, daughter of William Henry Harrison and Eliza (Watson) Bowen. His father was a native of England, and it is traditional that he served in the British army under the Duke of Wellington. William Walker was a farmer and stockraiser. He went with his parents, in 1835, to Niles, Michigan, and came to Audubon county in 1855. He was a Republican in politics and served as representative. He was large landowner, and resided on Troublesome creek, in Audubon township. He was also a merchant in Exira for several years. He was a member of Exodus Lodge No. 342, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and in religion was a Congregationalist. He died at Exira in 1899. His children were as follow: John E., who married Ida VanSlyke; Charles W., deceased; Francis A., deceased; Laura A., married James D. Barhan; Ulysses S., married Louisa Marsh; Lula May, married James B. Rendle-

man; Olive M., married Ralph D. Hawk; Eva J., married Charles Jenkins; Jay Grant, married Jessie Pratt.

David L. Anderson, a native of Virginia, married in Highland county, Ohio, in 1840, Mary Smith. He was a blacksmith and farmer. He went to Highland county, Ohio, in 1839; thence to Wappelo county, Iowa, in 1849; to Marion county, Iowa, in 1851, and to Audubon county in 1855. He lived at Exira before the town was laid out. He was a Republican and served as justice of the peace, school director and first postmaster at Exira. He was a famous hunter in his day. He and his son, John, served in the Seventh Iowa Cavalry. Another son, William, was killed in the army. He died at Audubon in 1901, and his wife died at Exira in 1900. Their children were, William S., unmarried; Lysanius M., married Tryphena S. Hopkins; John A., unmarried, murdered in 1883; Samuel, married Hannah Hughes; Catherine, married John McFadden; Laura, married William E. Hensley; Adelbert, married Elizabeth ———.

William Canfield Norton was born in New York state, January 26, 1811. He married on October 5, 1831, Ruth Harriet, daughter of Roswell and Mercy (Goodwin) Thayer, and who was born on September 11, 1813. From Springwater, New York, he moved to Allen county, Indiana, before 1850, but returned to Springwater. He moved to Oakfield, Iowa, in 1856, and built a two-story dwelling on block 10, Oakfield, where they lived the remainder of their lives, and sometimes kept hotel. He was a carpenter by trade. He was a Republican and served as postmaster and justice of the peace. He and his wife were Methodists. He was seventh in lineal descent from Thomas Norton, who came from Oakley, Surrey, England, to Boston, Massachusetts, in 1639; thence to New Haven, Connecticut, the same year. He was the ancestor of the Nortons of Guilford, Connecticut. Said Thomas Norton was lineally descended from Le Seigneur de Nourile (Norvile), who came to England with William the Conqueror, 1066, and was his constable. Also, seventh in lineal descent from Thomas Canfield, who came from England to Connecticut, and was in Milford, Connecticut, in 1644. His wife was seventh in lineal descent from Thomas Thayer, who came from Thornbury, England, and settled in Braintree, Massachusetts, in 1640. Also, eighth in lineal descent from Ozias Goodwin, who came to Boston, Massachusetts, in the "Lion," June 16, 1632, and settled in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1639. He died at Avoca, Iowa, November 29, 1884, and she died at West Exira, Iowa, June 9, 1882. Their children were as follow: Mary Elizabeth, born January 5, 1834, at Springwater, married James M. Jones; John Chapin, born June 13, 1836, at Springwater, married Susan

Ostrander; Charles Henry, born June 13, 1839, at Springwater, married Charlotte Howlett; Sarah Fidelia, born March 16, 1842, at Portageville, married Elam Wallace Pearl; Malinda Ann, born May 16, 1845, at Springwater, married Isaac Peter Hallock; Jennie Maria, born June 21, 1850, at Allen county, Indiana, married H. F. Andrews; James Miner, born December 10, 1854, at Springwater, married Nettie Griffith.

Boynton G. Dodge, a farmer and stockman, came from Henniker, New Hampshire, to Audubon county, in 1856. He bought the claim of Hiram Perkins, in section 34, Hamlin township, where he lived the remainder of his life. He was a Republican and served as a member of the board of supervisors and as superintendent of schools. In religion, he was a Congregationalist. He and his wife, Saphronia, died in Audubon county. Their children were, Nettie M., married Charley A. Bartlett; Arthur C., never married; Anna, died young; Capitola M., died unmarried; Roxie M., married Sanford Davis; Ida E., married William H. Dyer; Evalena, married Isaac L. Statzell and W. F. Williams; Carrie, died unmarried; Ellen T., married John H. Rendleman; Merrill B., married Gertrude Gates.

John W. Dodge came with his brother, Boynton, from Henniker, New Hampshire, to Audubon county in 1856, and settled in section 34, Hamlin township. He was a carpenter, farmer and stockman. He was a Republican and a member of the board of supervisors. He moved to California and died there. His wife was Eliza, the daughter of Samuel and Mary (Farrell) Smith. Their children were Carleton E. and Charles.

Samuel Smith was born in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, and married Gertrude Roseboom. He went from Pennsylvania to New Philadelphia, Ohio; thence to Petersburg, Ohio; to Frankfort, Ohio; to Hartford, Iowa; thence to Audubon county, in 1856, and settled in section 32, Greeley township; he moved to the town of Exira, Iowa, in 1874. He was a well-known gunsmith and farmer. He was a Republican and a Methodist. He and his wife died at Exira in 1891. Their children were, Hendrich R., who never married; William F. E., married Amanda Roberts; Andrew R., married, first, Emma Williams and, second, Mary E. Ort; Mary Belle, married John Hicks.

Levi B. Montgomery, farmer, was born in Lima, Ohio, in 1810, and married Fanny Boyles at Erie, Pennsylvania. He moved from Ohio to Noble county, Indiana; thence to Hancock county, Illinois; came to Audubon county, in 1856, and settled in section 3, Exira township. He was a Republican and served as county superintendent. He was a Methodist class leader. He and his wife died at Exira, he in 1866 and she in 1873. Their

children were as follow: Eli, who married Catherine Barber; William Noble, who went to California; Phebe J., married George Sharp; Hannah A., married Perriander Lewis; George S., married Harriet Stanford; John W., never married; Louisa C., married Peoria I. Whitted; Joel B., never married; Minerva E., married Robert Edwards; Margaret M., married J. H. Harrington; Levi J., married Emma Wiggins; Marion A., married Louisa Erickson; Alice H., married William Rudge.

Daniel Crane, a native of Pennsylvania, and a blacksmith and farmer, married Ann Eckman. He lived in Petersburg, Ohio, but moved to Marion county, Iowa, in 1854, and to Audubon county, in 1855. He was a Democrat. He and his wife passed away at Exira, he in 1876 and she in 1901, aged ninety-seven years. To them were born four children: Mary Ann, who married Frank Salter; John, married Mary I. Harris; Catherine, married John A. Hallock; Van Buren, married Mary E. Bush.

Howard J. Green, son of Allen and Clarissa Green, was born in Rensselaer county, New York, May 4, 1828. On November 28, 1850, he married Cordelia M., daughter of Nelson and Theodosia (Holcom) Reed, and who was born in Granby, Connecticut. He became a machinist, farmer and millman. He lived at Williamstown, Massachusetts, in 1844-7; moved thence to Chicopee, Massachusetts, where he lived until 1850; thence to Jackson county, Iowa, and came to Audubon county, in 1856. A Republican in politics, he served as swamp land commissioner, township trustee and subdirector. He was a member of the Loyal Legion in war time; secured and secreted arms and ammunition in his house for the Union men; assisted runaway negroes on their journey to liberty and was a big-hearted, generous man and highly esteemed. The community suffered a great loss in his death. He and his wife died in Audubon county, he on June 2, 1873, and she on January 28, 1898. Their children were born as follow: Emma Cordelia, married John R. Thacher; Henry Howard, married Mary Keith; Clara Ellen, who married John I. Jones; Dewey Wells, died unmarried; Walker Wallace, married Anna May Neff; Edwin Ellsworth, died unmarried; Mary Grace, married Jasper W. McClain.

Appollonias Bohon Houston, son of Oswald and Anna Louisa (Shaw) Houston, was born in South Carolina on February 16, 1823. In 1844 he married Nancy, daughter of James C. Bridges. He was a carpenter and merchant at Williamsport, Tennessee, and Atlanta, Georgia. He came from Tennessee to Audubon county with a team in 1856, settling in Exira in 1857, where he lived the remainder of his life. A Democrat, he rendered efficient service as deputy clerk of the district court, county judge, county

treasurer, justice of the peace and mayor of Exira. He was a merchant in Exira, and in partnership with Nathaniel Hamlin, engaged in the real estate business. He was proprietor of the Houston house, now the Park hotel. He was a member of the Masonic order. He died in 1902. Their children were as follow: Henry Bohon, who married Ida F. Herrick; Eudora Indiana married William F. Stotts; Louise Blake married Matthew Ragan; Oswald James married Mary Dissmore; William Walter married Lora Fitch; Flora Douglas married David B. Lyons; Mary married Thomas Bryant; Charles Washington married Anna Belle Gault; Robert Lee, unmarried; Eliza Amanda married George H. Henshaw.

Washington Bartlett, who was born in Virginia on September 19, 1820, married, first, Margaret Brier and, second, Martha E. Cuppy. He was a farmer. In 1831 he went with his father to Warren county, Indiana, and came to Audubon county in 1856, becoming a successful farmer. He was a Republican, a member of the board of supervisors and justice of the peace. His mother, Sabrina Hill, was a niece of Thomas Jefferson. He died at Brayton, Iowa. He was the father of three children, namely: Elbridge G., married; Lillie, who married Joseph M. Reynolds; Horace M., who married Jeanette Jenkins.

Albert I. Brainard, a carpenter, was a native of New York, and married Emily M. Lilly. He came to Audubon county from Geneseo, Illinois, in 1859 or 1860. He was a Democrat, and served as clerk of the district court and first county auditor. He lived in Exira, but later moved to Audubon, where he died. He was the father of the following children: Albert Kirk, who married Emma Prather; Frank E. died unmarried; Emma married Rev. Charles H. McIntosh; Carrie L. married Hans A. Christiansen; Fannie E. married George Ditzenberger; Ethelbert died unmarried; Walter A. never married.

Leonard Early came from Henry county to Audubon county in 1859, and here became a farmer. He settled in section 15, Exira township, and afterwards moved to the town of Exira. He was a Democrat. He was twice married. He went to California and died there, Mrs. Early dying at Exira. His children by his first wife were: Thirza, who married Avery Belcher; Mary, who married John E. McConnell; Caroline, who married W. A. Ellis; Worth, who married Harriet Bruner; Ann, who married Mr. James. By his second wife there were born four children, namely: Sophia, who married Mr. Lincoln; Alvin; Olive, who married Mr. Tracewell; Lillie, who married William Chrisman.

CHAPTER VI.

GOVERNMENT SURVEYS AND LAND ENTRIES.

The following is a list of the United States surveys of government lands in Audubon county, also by whom and when made:

The correction line, between townships 78 and 79, by I. Marsh, 1848.

The east, south and west lines of township 78, range 34 (Audubon) by Andrew Leech, June, 1849.

The south and west lines of township 78, range 35, and the south and west lines of township 78, range 36, by John P. Conkey, August, 1851.

The east lines of township 79, range 34; township 80, range 34, and township 81, range 34, by I. Ellis, 1849.

The remainder of the township and range lines in the county, by A. Anderson, 1851.

The following are the subdivisions of townships into sections, showing by whom and when made::

Township 78, range 34 (Audubon), by Elisha S. Norris, November 14 to 20, 1851.

Township 78, range 35 (Exira), by William H. Henderson, October 13 to 27, 1851.

Township 78, range 36 (Oakfield), by Daniel W. Henderson, October 28 to November 6, 1852.

Township 79, range 34 (Greeley), by Ambrose Carpenter, October 16 to 23, 1852.

Township 79, range 35 (Hamlin), by Adam Perry, November 8 to 20, 1852.

Township 79, range 36 (Sharon), by Adam Perry, May 16 to 23, 1852.

Township 80, range 34 (Melville), by Ambrose Carpenter, October 25 to November 1, 1852.

Township 80, range 35 (Leroy), by Adam Perry, December 6 to 12, 1852.

Township 80, range 36 (Douglas), by Joseph H. D. Street and Richard H. Worden, June 13 to 18, 1853.

Township 81, range 34 (Viola), by Ambrose Carpenter, November 3 to 10, 1852.

Township 81, range 35 (Cameron), by Joseph H. D. Street and Richard H. Wordenu, November 2 to 13, 1852.

Township 81, range 36 (Lincoln), by Joseph H. D. Street and Richard H. Worden, June 6 to 12, 1853.

Dr. Samuel M. Ballard was financially interested in the Perry and Henderson surveys. His sons assisted in making them.

The surveyors entered into their field notes mentions of some of the early settlers, viz.: Monday, October 13, 1851, in running the line between sections 35 and 36, in township 78, range 35, entered Nathaniel Hamlin's field, forty acres. On the same day, widow Hoggard's house, five chains west of line between sections 25 and 26; cabin on the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 26. October 18, Powell's cabin, on section 3. October 21, Philip A. Decker's breaking, three and one-half acres on section 17. October 24, John Jenkin's cabin, on section 20. October 28, 1852, Samuel M. Ballard has twenty-five acres broken on the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 36, township 78, range 36, and Benjamin Hiatt resides on the northeast quarter of section 36.

The plat of the survey of township 78, range 35, shows that the section line between sections 35 and 36 passed through Nathaniel Hamlin's field, about half the breaking on each side of the line, being in the northeast quarter of section 35 and the same amount in the northwest quarter of section 36. Also, that the line between sections 16 and 17 passed through Decker's field, his breaking extending from northwest to southeast, about half in the northeast quarter of section 17, and a like amount in the northwest quarter of section 16.

ORIGINAL ENTRIES OF GOVERNMENT LANDS.

During the year 1853, the following named residents of Audubon county made entries of land at the United States land office, viz.: Reuben Carpenter, Samuel M. Ballard, Nathaniel Hamlin, Mark Heath, Milton Heath and Alvin Herrick.

During the year 1855 entries of land were made as follow, viz.: Samuel M. Ballard, John W. Beers, George H. Calder, Reuben Carpenter, John Countryman, James B. Donnel, Richard Gault, Nathaniel Hamlin, Mark Heath, Alvin Herrick, Edson Herrick, Benjamin F. Jenkins, John

S. Jenkins, Isaac V. D. Lewis, Bryant Milliman, Daniel B. Reese, John Seiford, William Shirley, Robert Stansberry, Peoria I. Whitted.

During the year 1855 entries of land were made as follows, viz.: Mary Anderson, Norman W. Archer, Samuel M. Ballard, William F. Ballard, John W. Beers, William Carpenter, Michael Scharff, Daniel Crane, Charles B. Cross, Howard J. Green, Nathaniel Hamlin, Daniel M. Harris, Urbane Herrick, William Holdcroft, John S. Jenkins, Walter J. Jardine, Alexander Kincaid, Charles E. Marsh, Richard C. Meek, Hiram Perkins, George T. Poage, Samuel Smith, William Walker.

SOME EARLY CONVEYANCES OF LAND.

William Shirley to Bryant Milliman, July 1, 1854; William Powell to Bryant Milliman, August 16, 1854; Wm. W. Willingham to Thomas S. Lewis, November 6, 1854; William W. Willingham to John S. Jenkins, November 6, 1854; Samuel B. Hopkins to John S. Jenkins, August 16, 1855; Isaac P. Hallock to Erasmus D. Bradley, May 22, 1855; John Countryman to Nathaniel Hamlin, August 18, 1855; Wm. W. Willingham to Howard J. Green, April 1, 1856.

CHAPTER VII.

POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTIONS

A majority of the first settlers were of Southern extraction. And so, at the first presidential election, in 1856, James Buchanan received fifty-six votes, while John C. Fremont received but twenty-nine votes. In 1860 Stephen A. Douglas received eighty-four votes, and Abraham Lincoln, but thirteen. In 1864 George B. McClellan received sixty-one votes, and Lincoln, but twenty-three.

It is a fact that there have been few exceptions since the organization of the county when members of both parties did not hold some of the county offices. The first acquaintance the writer had with political affairs in the county was in 1865, when the Democrats made a clean sweep and elected all of the county officers. In celebration of that event, the officers-elect gave a supper at the Perry hotel. It was a merry affair, with a dance attached. Some of those who attended the supper were: John S. Jenkins, Benjamin F. Jenkins, Isaac H. Jenkins, Nathaniel Hamlin, Thomas S. Lewis, A. B. Houston Daniel Crane, John Crane, Albert I. Brainard, P. I. Whitted, Richard Gault, Urbane Herrick and Hendrick R. Smith. The names of others are forgotten. They had not only a noble table spread, but also an abundance of "liquid inspiration." When the company were about to sit down to the "temporal blessings," "Uncle" John Jenkins, county judge-elect, was called on for a speech. Now "Uncle Johnny" was not noted for lengthy orations, and so he gave this sentiment: "I am Judge Jenkins, from Kentucky, and the father of this supper, sirs, by G——! Now, gentlemen, take hold," and the supper proceeded.

Elections were held in the county annually until 1906. About half of the officers, whose terms were for two years, were elected in one year, and the remainder in the following year, and so on in succession. Not until about 1878-9 was a delegate convention held in the county. It was the custom for any voter who desired, to attend and take part in the conventions of his party. The meetings were sometimes sparsely attended.

The first convention ever attended by the writer was at Exira in the fall of the year 1866, wholly a novel experience, and without the slightest

idea of being a candidate for office. It was convened in the old school house, with very few in attendance, among whom were the chairman, J. L. Frost, Deacon Lyman Bush and Andrew M. Hardy. It was a very informal meeting. Several were suggested and discussed as candidates. Mr. Hardy asked me if I would accept the nomination for recorder. I said that I had no knowledge of the duties of the office. Without much discussion, it was put to vote and I was formally nominated. Darius Barlow, who was not present, was nominated in the same manner for clerk, and the meeting adjourned with an informal understanding that the ticket was to be filled out later. Barlow declined to accept the nomination, and John A. Hallock was afterwards substituted by common consent. Washington Bartlett was put on the ticket for supervisor in the same way. The vote on recorder that year stood seventy-eight to sixty-nine, in my favor, which was considered overwhelming! Mr. Bartlett was also elected, but Hallock was defeated. The ballots that year for Exira and Oakfield township were written by hand with pens by John A. Hallock, George A. Dissmore and H. F. Andrews.

In 1867 the Republican ticket, so far as recalled, was: Charles Van Gorder, for treasurer; David L. Anderson, for sheriff; J. L. Frost, for surveyor. The Democratic ticket was: Amherst Heath, for county judge; A. B. Houston, for treasurer; John Huntley, for sheriff; P. I. Whitted, for surveyor. The entire Democratic ticket was elected. The vote on the state ticket stood ninety-two to eighty, in favor of the Democrats. The principal fight on the county ticket was over the office of treasurer. Mr. Houston was a wily, crafty, tricky politician. He had the rare faculty of concealing his designs. No man in this county ever better understood the method. He was experienced; had been in partnership with Mr. Hamlin for several years; had held the offices of county judge and deputy clerk of court, and was then holding the office of treasurer. He was backed by the Hamlin influence, was the leading merchant in the county, and had many influential friends by reason of business relations. Van Gorder was justly popular as a young man, and especially on account of his soldier record; but he had no previous political experience, and had made no special canvass for the office. While the party majority was against him, ninety-two to eighty, he was defeated by twenty-six votes, a signal defeat at the time. It was accomplished by a trick. Word was quietly passed around on election day by the Democrats that he was not competent for the office, and was only a brickmaker, etc., and that if elected, John A. Hallock, an unpopular man, was to be appointed his deputy to conduct the business of the office. Not a

word of it was true. The Republicans did not discover the fraud until too late to remedy the attack. They were caught napping without a chance of defense, and the scheme succeeded as intended.

In the spring of 1868 the Republican convention was called by the chairman, J. L. Frost, to meet at the Green school house. A few members attended under the call, transacted the business, amongst which H. F. Andrews was appointed chairman of the central committee, and adjourned. In due time, the new chairman called the county convention for nomination of county officers, etc., to meet at the Green school house, which was followed by a similar notice given by Judge Hallock, of Oakfield, purporting to be county chairman, for the same purpose, to be held at the same time and place. The double notice was a surprise to many, but brought out an unusual attendance. It developed that there was a schism in the party, previously unknown to the new comers to the county. Mr. Frost was on hand to represent his faction, claiming that it had the only regular authority to act, while Doctor Ballard and his brother, "Uncle Fred," insisted that Judge Hallock was the only authorized chairman. Some of the Democrats were present to witness the jangle. It was admitted that the previous convention in the spring was regularly called by Mr. Frost; and it fairly appeared that Mr. Frost and his associates had attended the meeting, transacted the business and adjourned. On the other hand, "Uncle Fred" Ballard stated that he appeared at the meeting place—presumably after the Frost meeting had adjourned—and observing the call posted there, and that the hour of meeting had arrived, hitched his horse, went into the school house, called the meeting to order, and proceeded to transact business. Doctor Ballard and himself were appointed delegates to the state convention, and Judge Hallock was appointed chairman of the county central committee. He said that he was the only one present and that he presided, and averred that the meeting was perfectly harmonious, and that the business was conducted by unanimous consent. And it appeared that Doctor Ballard and "Uncle Fred" had attended as delegates to the state convention under authority of that "meeting."

Mr. Frost pointed out the absurdity of "Uncle Fred's" performance; that is was a farce, and that, consequently, Judge Hallock had no authority to act, in which he was sustained by most of those present. Some others joined with the Ballards, right or wrong. The situation was serious and protended danger to the party organization. Doctor Ballard harangued the meeting and waxed eloquent. He said that he had been fighting Democrats all his life. "I fought that old man (Frost) when he was a Demo-

crat, and he was the meanest one I ever knew." Ballard and Frost both came from Iowa City, where the Doctor had been proprietor of the *Iowa City Republican*, the leading paper at one time in Iowa, and was in position to have known Frost's political pedigree. That shot settled it. Mr. Frost left the meeting in anger, and was never afterwards seen in a convention in Audubon county. The meeting amicably recognized Judge Hallock as county chairman, and proceeded to nominate a county ticket, viz.: John M. Griggs, for county judge; John W. Scott, for clerk of court; H. F. Andrews, for recorder; Boynton G. Dodge, for superintendent, and Jacob Andrews, for supervisor.

On the Democratic ticket were: Albert I. Brainard, for county judge; John Crane, for clerk of courts, and William F. Stotts, for recorder.

There was no newspaper in the county for publishing news at that time. It was spread by word of mouth. Meeting Mr. Frost soon afterward, he inquired the result of the convention, and when informed about the ticket selected, he angrily remarked: "Well, you have made a ticket, but you will have a good time electing it." And he was right. Scott was elected by four majority; Dodge and Jacob Andrews were elected; Griggs was defeated by two votes and H. F. Andrews, by six votes.

The popular opinion was that Van Gorder did not have a fair show in 1867 and it was determined to give him another race. The Republican ticket for 1869 had Charles Van Gorder, for treasurer; Samuel R. Thomas, for sheriff; Boynton G. Dodge, for superintendent, and Charles H. Andrews, for surveyor. The Democratic ticket had A. B. Houston, for treasurer; Colbert Strahl, for sheriff; David B. Beirs, for superintendent, and P. I. Whitted, for surveyor. This time Mr. Houston was unfortunate. Some time prior to 1869, one Darias Barlow obtained a judgment against one Bradley Beers, who owned a farm near old Hamlin; but, to defeat Barlow, he put the title to his land in the name of Asahel Wakeman, who lived in New York state, from whence Barlow and Beers had emigrated to Audubon county. Beers sold his farm and the proceeds were deposited with Houston pending the delivery of the deed. Wakeman came on to Exira to make the deed. Barlow procured an execution and Houston was attached as garnishee of Beers and delivered the purchase-money for the farm to the officer, and in that way Barlow collected his debt from Beers. Mr. Houston made the grand mistake of pretending to be the friend of both Beers and Barlow; but ended by making Beers his bitter enemy. Beers was a prominent, leading worker in the Democratic party and from the time Van Gorder and Houston were nominated for the race for treasurer,

he made it his business to visit all the Democrats in the county and ate with them. He succeeded emphatically in putting out the poison which defeated Mr. Houston. The party vote that year stood one hundred and eighteen to one hundred and fourteen, in favor of the Democrats. Van Gorder was elected by eleven majority. It was considered, under all the circumstances, a famous victory. Van Gorder served four years. At the time he took the office the records were in a deplorable condition, but he worked diligently and straightened them out. He was the father of the financial system of Audubon county.

The elections for county officers in 1870, 1871 and 1872 were not particularly remarkable, except that the court-house and county-seat fights waxed warm, and at the election in 1873 the question of moving the county seat to Hamlin was submitted and defeated. In 1873 the whole people of the county were bristling over the county-seat contest, and the north part of the county was gradually receiving new settlers and gaining strength. An account of this period will be found in the chapter on County-Seat Contests.

Party lines were entirely lost sight of this year. The Exira party met in mass convention of all parties at the school house and, having first established the basis of selecting the candidates from both parties, alternately, or nearly as convenient, agreed on the following ticket: H. S. Wattles, Republican, for auditor; W. F. Stotts, Democrat, for treasurer; John B. Counrardy, Democrat, for sheriff; Harmon G. Smith, Republican, for superintendent, and P. I. Whitted, Democrat, for surveyor. The opposition put up the following nominees: Samuel A. Graham, Democrat, for auditor; H. Ransford, Republican, for treasurer; Samuel P. Zike, for sheriff; John A. Hallock, Republican, for superintendent, and Dan P. McGill, Republican, for surveyor.

It was a fierce campaign and bitter, not so much for or against the candidates, as it was for and against Exira. The people of the south part of the county were far the more numerous, but were foolishly divided into factions, by old grouches among themselves. The Exira ticket was elected in toto, by majorities from seventeen to one hundred and four. For years afterwards local party lines were shattered and lost. It established a precedent in Audubon county, the result of which has not disappeared at the present time. It opened a gulf between Exira and the remainder of the county, which shifted to Audubon against Exira in the county-seat fight of 1879, and which has never closed. An examination of the election returns from 1873 to the present time will reveal the fact that candidates from

Exira on the county ticket have too frequently gone down in defeat, engendered by the old strife, and vice versa.

The scope of this work does not afford space for continuance of the subject. From this period—1873—the county newspapers and the county records afford fuller information, and to which the reader is referred. What is here produced covers the period before the advent of newspapers, 1871, and before the county records were so fully kept and preserved. A complete roster of officials will be found elsewhere in the work.

CHAPTER VIII.

COUNTY SEATS AND COUNTY SEAT CONTESTS.

When Dayton was selected the county seat, June 20, 1855, there were not to exceed seventy voters in the county and nearly all of these resided in what is now Exira township; a few lived adjoining about Ballard's, in the edge of what is now Oakfield township, and there was one settler in section 34, in what is now Hamlin township. Hamlin's Grove was then the center of the business interests. Exira and Oakfield had not then been platted. There were a few settlers living where Oakfield was afterwards laid out and not to exceed half a dozen families about the future town of Exira.

At the time the commissioners located the county seat they visited the settlement at Viola, now Exira, which was the extreme northern outpost of civilization, with no immediate prospect of further extension in that direction.

The first sale of town lots at Dayton was advertised by Daniel M. Harris, county judge, for November 22, 1855, at which time but one lot was sold, the price being fifty cents. The sale was adjourned to June 3, 1856, when eighty-five lots were sold, at prices ranging from one dollar and fifty cents to nine dollars each. That was about the last public business transacted at Dayton. The two residents of the town, Mr. Archer and Rev. Mr. Baker, soon moved away, and no one has since resided on the place. It is now occupied as a farm.

The first court was held in the log school house at Hamlin's Grove in November, 1855. The personnel of this first court was as follows: Hon. E. H. Sears, judge; John W. Beers, clerk; Benjamin M. Hiatt, sheriff; grand jury, David L. Anderson, foreman, Charles E. Marsh, W. H. H. Bowen, J. L. Frost, John Countryman, Ed. Gingery, John Crene, John Seifford, Allen McDonnell, John S. Johnson, Nathaniel Hamlin, Joseph S. Kirk, Richard M. Lewis. They found an indictment against Thomas S. Lewis for illegal sale of intoxicating liquor.

The petit jury were, G. W. Taylor, Mark Heath, Hiram Perkins, James H. McDonnell, William Walker, William Carpenter, George Wire, Reuben Kenyon, Bryant Milliman, Robert Stansbery and James Mounts. The first case was Blanchet S. Shacklet vs. Richard C. Meek. The jury retired to



AUDUBON COUNTY COURT HOUSE

the grove to deliberate on their verdict, and decided the case "according to law and evidence."

On March 3, 1856, a petition was submitted to the county judge for removal of the county seat to a place called Viola, now Exira. The prayer of the petitioners was granted and the election held at the house of John S. Jenkins on April 7, 1856. But the proposition was defeated. At an election held in April, 1861, the proposition to change the county seat to Exira prevailed. Old settlers do not recall any spirited contest on that occasion. On June 6, 1862, a petition was presented to the supervisors for the removal of the county seat from Exira to Oakfield, which was denied. In 1866, a petition was circulated asking the removal of the county seat from Exira to Louisville, which failed for the requisite number of petitioners.

During the years 1872-3 a fierce, hot fight raged in the county over the effort to remove the county seat from Exira to Hamlin. John W. Scott, Esq., of Exira, was leader of the Hamlin forces, assisted by Freeman, Sanborn, Kimball, Gunn and others in the north part of the county, by O. C. Keith and others from Oakfield, and by Nathaniel Hamlin, Newt Donnel and others from Troublesome. The people of Exira proper were united, "tooth and toe-nail," to resist the effort.

Mr. Hamlin and an able array of associates laid out an elegant town site in sections 1 and 2, in what is now Hamlin township, called Hamlin, in 1872; but the plat was not recorded until the following year.

Petitions for the removal were circulated to all parts and corners of the county, and remonstrances were, in like manner, circulated by Exira people. The excitement was intense and the whole people were on the war-path, taking part in the controversy. Messengers of both factions were out canvassing for signers, some on foot, some on horseback and others in carriages. It was a lively time and every voter in the county was interviewed, and some of them many times. As soon as one party would secure a signer to the petition or remonstrance, another canvasser would be after him to get his name on the opposition paper. Printed slips were used declaring how the signer desired his name to be counted, either for the petition or for the remonstrance, as the case might be, bearing date, the day, hour and minute when signed.

There were then living south of Exira some people called "Woods Rats." It was a sort of neutral territory, the people of which did not seem to have any decided opinion on the question, but would sign any and all papers, petition, remonstrance or printed slip, presented to them. They

vacillated back and forth from petition to remonstrance, and vice versa. One man changed his mind eight times by signing the various papers and slips. The law as it then stood made no express provision to cover such case, and the contestants acted on the theory that the last signing indicated the preference of the party signing; hence the importance of giving exact date of signing to a minute. The law has since been changed in that respect, declaring that where the name of the same person appears both on the petition and remonstrance, it shall be counted for the remonstrance only.

During the last twenty-four hours of the contest all parties were on the alert. The writer was directing the work of the remonstrators, with headquarters at the Houston house. Messengers of both parties were running all night in all directions, seeking the very latest signatures to the printed slips, before mentioned. Royal Lespenasse, the editor of the *Sentinel*, was doing yeoman service on that duty for Exira, and Newt Donnel was similarly employed for the Hamlin faction. The next day, September 5, 1872, the hearing for decision came on before the supervisors. John M. Griggs was my law partner at the time, but declined to assist the Exira people and professed to stand neutral. I believed that he secretly favored Mr. Scott and the Hamlin faction. He took no active part in the controversy. The board of supervisors were John W. Dodge, William H. H. Bowden and John Noon.

When the petition and remonstrance had been canvassed it was found that the petitioners exceeded the names on the remonstrance, and that the signers of the petition were a majority of the voters in the county. It appeared that the Exira people were in danger of defeat. Mr. Scott assumed a triumphant attitude and attempted to inform the supervisors how they should proceed, as if his case was won. I was absolutely alone, without any one competent to advise me, a young man and quite a new lawyer. What I didn't know would have made a big book. So I determined to fight to the end of the road and to the last ditch, as we had been in habit of doing in the army. I objected that the supervisors should not submit the question of the removal of the county seat from Exira to the town of Hamlin to an election, for the reason that it did not affirmatively appear that there was any such place as the town of Hamlin in Audubon county, which was true, and I so argued. The town plat of Hamlin had not then been executed or recorded, so far as the records showed; and I also claimed that it was uncertain that the plat would be made and recorded. Mr. Scott asserted that the town was surveyed and laid out on the ground, and insisted that it was sufficient. He was surprised and taken off his guard. I feared that he

would proceed to record the plat, nunc pro tunc, or that he would offer to do so. But he did not, and the case was submitted to the supervisors for their decision. They refused to grant the prayer of the petition, Messrs. Dodge and Bowen voting not to submit the proposition of removal to an election, and Mr. Noon voting for the submission. The decision was a glorious triumph for Exira, for the time being. The manner of its accomplishment was a surprise to everyone, except myself. I had not dared to announce my plan of procedure to anyone before the hearing, for fear Mr. Scott would take warning and attempt to cure the defect.

In 1873 the fight continued with renewed vigor. The plat of the town of Hamlin was executed and recorded in April, 1873, and another petition was presented to the supervisors asking for an order to submit the question to an election whether the county seat should be changed from Exira to Hamlin. The proper order was made for such election and another active county-seat fight campaign ensued. By this time it was the general desire that the question should be settled. From an estimate of the number of voters in the county, it then appeared that a majority of them resided south of the correction line and Exira people went into the contest anticipating success. A better feeling existed between the people of Exira township, although some of the people of Oakfield and Troublesome were still hostile to Exira. During the campaign a bond was given by Exira parties, of which the following is a copy, with the action of the supervisors thereon:

"Auditor's office, Audubon county, Iowa.

"September 1, 1873. Board of supervisors met according to law, members all present. John Noon in the chair.

"On motion, the following bond was ordered placed on record and printed as a part of the proceedings of the board:

"Know all men by these presents, that we, Charles Van Gorder, A. B. Houston, J. D. Bush, J. A. Hallock, P. I. Whitted and A. Campbell, are held and firmly bound unto the county of Audubon and state of Iowa in the penal sum of five thousand dollars, well to be made out of the goods and chattels, lands and tenements.

"Dated at Exira, Audubon county, Iowa, this 1st day of September, 1873.

"To be void upon the following conditions: Whereas, the honorable board of supervisors of Audubon county, Iowa, did, at the June meeting in 1873, order an election to be held in said county, on the day of the general election in 1873, to determine the voice of the people for and against the removal of the county seat from Exira to the town of Hamlin.

"And whereas, the citizens of Exira being opposed to the removal of the county seat, and therefore offer and bind themselves unto the county of Audubon, and state of Iowa, to furnish to said county, free of expense, a good and substantial building for the use of the county offices of the county, a room for the holding of the district and circuit courts of the county, and the meeting of the board of supervisors, so long as they may be occupied by the county as public offices, upon the condition that the said county seat remain at Exira, as now located. And in case the said county seat remain at Exira, and the said bonded parties or their representatives build or furnish said offices for the use of the county, and also furnish court room and a place for holding the meetings of the board of supervisors in accordance with the stipulations of this bond, then these presents shall be void, but on the failure to comply with the conditions of this bond on the vote of the people refusing to relocate the county seat, then this obligation be and remain in full force in law, said bonded parties to have a reasonable time after the general election in which to build said offices, and the time to be determined by the board of supervisors on their acceptance of this bond.

"In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands the day and date first above written.

"CHARLES VAN GORDER,

"JOHN D. BUSH,

"P. I. WHITTED,

"A. B. HOUSTON,

"J. A. HALLOCK,

"A. CAMPBELL."

"The above bond is hereby accepted and ordered placed on record and the time for the erection of said building is hereby limited to the first day of June, 1874.

"JOHN NOON,

"Chairman Board of Supervisors."

The giving and acceptance of this bond undoubtedly controlled many in favor of Exira. The times were then hard and ready money was difficult to obtain. Prices of farm products were then low in comparison with the prices of store goods, building materials, fence wire, hardware, farm machinery, etc. Many people, and especially new settlers, found it difficult to make a living and many were in debt for their lands and farming outfits. Taxes were burdensome even as low as they were at that period. There was

but one newspaper, the *Sentinel*, conducted by Royal Lespenasse, and located at Exira. It stood for the interests of Exira, so there was no newspaper fight at that time.

When the election was held the proposition to change the county seat was defeated by a handsome majority, greatly to the disappointment of the Hamlin faction. The contest caused bitterness and many old grudges were harbored and laid up on account of it, which have never subsided. It flamed up again in the county-seat fight of 1879, between Audubon and Exira, with wicked hatred and fury on all sides and between all factions. Politics, while partially observed on the national and state tickets, were entirely lost sight of in the selection of county and local officers for years from and after 1872. It is not difficult to believe that periodical eruptions of the disease have since occurred.

It was discovered that my partner, Mr. Griggs, stood with the Hamlin faction. We had been happily and prosperously associated together in the law and real estate business for four years; but the county-seat fight wrecked the partnership and it was severed. But we have long since forgiven each other.

In 1874 the Exira Hall Company was incorporated at Exira, and erected a building for a courthouse and county offices.

The records of the supervisors on June 30, 1874, show the following business was transacted:

"On motion, the following was adopted: The Exira Hall Company hereby tender to the board of supervisors of Audubon county, Iowa, the two south rooms and the north room down stairs of the company's building for the use of the county officials exclusively, and the main hall upstairs of the company's building, at such times as it may be required to hold the district and circuit courts, provided the county will repair all injuries while in use for said purposes.

"W. F. STOTTS,

"H. F. ANDREWS."

"Voted by the board of supervisors of Audubon county, Iowa, this 30th day of June, 1874, to accept the above proposition of the Exira Hall Company in fulfillment of the bond of Charles Van Gorder, et al. to furnish offices and court room for the county in case the county seat should remain at Exira."

Thus the contest ended and the county occupied the building for court house and county offices at Exira until 1879.

The county seat fight of 1879, between Audubon and Exira, yet lingers in the memories of those who participated in it. The advantage was with the north half of the county. Back of it all was the railroad company, with Bert Freeman and Captain Stuart as chief fuglemen, who were too adroit to resort to the vulgarity of personal broils, but had tools to do their bidding. Many new settlers had come to the county since 1873. The Danes had made large settlements in Oakfield and Sharon townships, and the so-called homesteader movement brought a large number of people into the north of the county, who were naturally an increase to the interests of the new town of Audubon. In 1878 the Rock Island Railroad Company built the road from Atlantic and founded the town of Audubon in the midst of their land. Settlers poured in from the start. During the summer of 1879 the town of Audubon was a busy place. The railroad company employed a large number of workmen to erect the new court house. Stuart & Son employed many others to build their elevators at Audubon and Exira, as well as other buildings there and to work on their extensive farms. People at Audubon and the farmers in the north part of the county found employment for all the extra men they could use and accommodate. It was reported that men could readily obtain free board and lodging there for the sixty days before the county-seat election, as they were expected to vote for Audubon for the county seat. There were lots of new faces seen in the north part of the county and about Audubon, who were not seen there after election. The writer had occasion to examine a denizen of Audubon as a witness, who was a new comer at that time, and in answer to an interrogatory as to his place of residence he said that he was at home in any place where his hat was on. The same condition probably applied equally well to others stopping about Audubon at that period. On the day of the county-seat election the railroad company conducted a free train from Atlantic to Audubon and towns along the line to carry voters to the election. Our old friend Jack Lemon, who is still conductor on the Audubon railroad, was the conductor who had charge of that election train in 1879. It was current talk at the time that any man could vote at Audubon that day and no questions asked.

The newspaper clash during the campaign was something remarkable. *The Advocate* was at first conducted by Kimball. Here follows his salutation in the *Advocate*, on January 1, 1879:

"Good morning. The *Advocate* has but little to offer in the way of introduction. The circumstances that combined and created a demand for another paper, the building of a new railroad and town, are all well known to the public; therefore it has no excuses to offer for its appearance in the

crowded field of journalism. Neither does the editor of this paper need an introduction to the majority of the citizens of Audubon county. We first came here in 1869, on the 2d of April. * * * During these years we have formed many pleasant acquaintances and made many warm friends * * * and we have made a few, and we think a very few, just as warm enemies who have made known their position in an unmistakable manner. Entering the newspaper field as we did five years ago, inexperienced, it is only surprising to us that we did not make more mistakes and alienate more friends during the three years and five weeks that we published a paper in this county. Not that we do not expect to tread on somebody's toes in the future, either intentionally or otherwise, but we hope our past experience may profit us to a certain extent and help us to make the *Advocate* a welcome visitor in nearly every household in the county.

"We are probably well acquainted with at least three-fourths of the citizens of this county and we think we know the character of a paper that will meet their demands, but whether we are able to furnish such a one is for them and the future to determine. They know our faults and foibles, peculiarities, eccentricities and idiosyncrasies, and with such knowledge they do not act blindly when they subscribe for, and pledge a hearty support to the *Advocate*, as scores of men belonging to all shades of political parties and members of every sect have voluntarily done. * * * Our duties are to control the editorial columns. * * * It is, of course, necessary to state that the *Advocate* will be, politically, a Republican paper and will support the Republican ticket and every candidate who is fairly and squarely nominated by a regular Republican convention, but should some demagogue, a member of another party, by trickery and chicanery, or, even a pretended member of the Republican party, succeed in capturing a Republican nomination by running in Democrats, Greenbackers and what-nots, in Republican primaries, the *Advocate* will throw him overboard instanter. We are not preparing a way to bolt nominations, by any means, for we expect to support the Republican ticket, pure and unadulterated, but we have in the past seen one or two instances of such contemptible political trickery, where Republican conventions were captured by outsiders and incompetent, unpopular, unprincipled demagogues nominated, that we thought proper to state emphatically that the *Advocate* will not countenance any such unwarranted proceeding. The *Advocate* will support any and every competent and responsible Republican candidate, regularly and fairly nominated, whether it likes him personally or otherwise, but it will not be bound to support an unprincipled political demagogue who obtains a nomination by chicanery and fraud," etc.

The tenor of Kimball's remarks indicated the animus of his intentions and purposes. He had been forced out of Exira a year before and was employed for the purpose of fighting Exira; he was more than hungry for revenge. With blood on fire, his tongue and lips dripped with venom at every utterance and he spared no opportunity to pour out his vials of wrath upon the editors of the *Exira Defender*, Hallock and Campbell, especially upon the senior editor. Mr. Hallock was unfortunate in bearing a soiled reputation for morality and chastity, which laid him open to the shafts of Kimball's vengeance. Before the campaign closed, Kimball was ousted from the *Advocate* by his partner, who continued the fight for Audubon, as appears from the following:

"THE ADVOCATE.

"B. F. Thacker, Editor.

"SALUTATORY.

"We can now announce to the people of Audubon county, that we have purchased all of Mr. Kimball's right, title and interest in the *Advocate* office and peace is at last restored.

"Whatever action may have been taken in this fight by the citizens of this town in the past, we are willing and ready to let everything drop, from this date, and throw our whole mind and energies into the paper and the interests of the county, and we will fight to the death all factions, rings and cliques, that are not working in the interest of the public good.

"We shall advocate the removal of the county seat from Exira to Audubon next fall, all reports to the contrary notwithstanding, and shall try to do it in a fair, square, manly way, excluding, as far as possible, all slang and personal abuse from our paper.

"Hoping that we may retain the present friendship and support of our patrons, we remain, etc.

"B. F. THACKER."

Mr. Thacker conducted the paper on more respectable and temperate terms. But Kimball secured a new organ—*The Times*—supplied by his backers, and continued his lampoons upon Hallock & Campbell to the end of the campaign. The articles and poems (?) by Kimball were outrageous and indecent. To have sent them through the mail would have been contrary to the law. They were too obscene to be here repeated. The *Sentinel*, edited by H. P. Albert ("Pinkey"), threw its influence for Audubon. The

only paper in favor of Exira was the *Defender*. It is doubtful whether any of the newspapers were influential in the fight. They were all disgraces to journalism in that affair. Kimball's character was such that he could not even believe his own word, so it was said. Several local orators harangued the people on the county-seat issue, during the campaign, notably, Melvin Nichols for the Audubon faction. It was difficult to keep track of him or determine which side he did espouse; but he ended up for Audubon. John M. Griggs espoused the cause of Exira.

Here is some of the literature of that county-seat campaign:

"Don't! Don't! Don't! Hallock, in the last *Defender*, published a little of his biography, and, mentioning some gentleman he met forty years ago, says: 'Our own history since that time would make a volume; the history of those with whom we then enacted would make many volumes.'

"Holy mother of Moses! Don't publish it. Please don't. Give us something else; but, if you have any respect for the rising generation, don't publish your own history. Don't you know there is a law against the publication of obscene literature?

"And then the falsehoods in connection with your 'Great transgressions.' Only think of it. You have told lies enough during this county-seat fight to 'make a volume' larger than Webster's Unabridged. Don't attempt such a thing. It would ruin society and break your press. A man who would attempt to contaminate society by circulating such vile literature ought to be kicked into the middle of the next century by a steam mule.

"Only think of that (obscene); and those (obscene); and (obscene); and your conduct while at Des Moines; and that fifty-dollar transaction with ———; and your fight in the church; and your infidelity; and your telling a lie and laying it to old Aunt Meek; and your writing silly stories and signing your name 'Aunt Gertie'; and your selling your vote to the railroad company while you were in the Legislature; and your abuse of the homesteaders while you were selling land for the railroad company; and your abuse of the company since they gave you the grand bounce; and your lies about Drew and Van Tuyl; and your abuse of Freeman and Brown; and your forging a county warrant; and your contemptible falsehoods about the Audubon band matter; and your accusing the people of the north of being poor and having no teams; and your loaning your railroad pass; and your writing to Drew and offering to sell out your friends in Exira and publish a paper in Audubon if he would give you a town lot; and your sticking your dirty nose into everybody's business, particularly church matters; and your attempt at smart-

ness, when if your head had been an eighth of an inch nearer flat you would have been a monkey; and your scratching tickets and then lying about it; and your misrepresentations of this town and its citizens; and your general cussedness; and, worst of all, your villainous lies about the pious editor of the *Audubon Times*. And so on, ad infinitum.

"Don't attempt such a thing! Reproduce the worst immoral work extant; publish a history of John Allen, the 'Wickedest Man in New York,' but don't, please don't, corrupt society by publishing the first volume of your own horrible demoralizing biography. Spread the yellow fever, smallpox, or any other fatal epidemic, for they will only kill the body, but such a work as you propose to inflict upon mortality would damn the very soul."

Here is another: "On Monday evening last there was a meeting of the citizens of Oakfield, called by Elder Crocker for the purpose of presenting some of the reasons why the people of this county should not remove the county seat to Audubon, at this time and under the present existing circumstances. The railroad tools and yelpers of Audubon, hearing of it, came down to wool the people into their snares. Elder Crocker generously divided the time with them. They set Elder M. Nichols, Esq., M. D., up as their spokesman (we won't say anything about how he came to be on their side) and Elder Crocker chose J. M. Griggs to close the debate. Crocker led off and gave the voters present a chain of facts and circumstances concerning the workings of this great soulless monopoly, that caused their eyes to open and set their thoughts at work. He showed them that a vote to remove the county seat to Audubon and thereby accept the cunningly-drawn lease, the deed of trust to the public square, and the bond of Audubon's forty-two citizens to build a house in that town in 1884, 'If the board of supervisors at that time required it,' was involving this county's finances in a ruinous struggle with a self-created ring, consisting of forty-two men of wealth and influence, backed by the railroad company as an interested party. Elder Crocker made many other telling points and unanswerable arguments why removal should not take place at this time.

"Nichols then followed with the piece he had prepared against Audubon and which he was to have delivered at that place last Saturday, substituting the name Exira for Audubon. His talk fell upon the ears of his hearers with the deadness of conscience-stricken, benumbed, though eliciting nothing but terse cuts from the friends of a fair vote of the actual citizens of the county on all questions of financial interest to the people.

"J. M. Griggs followed with one of his soul-stirring appeals for justice to all, showing that Exira was less than two miles further from the center

of the county, by section lines, than Audubon, and refuting many sophistries offered by those who are hired to assist the railroad company in robbing the poor man of his lands and home. The railroad hirelings were so dissatisfied with the results of the meeting that they determined to have another at Audubon, where they can call in their subsidized voters and supporters to enthuse for them, and where they suppose Messrs. Crocker and Griggs dare not put in an appearance. But they will find that these gentlemen are not afraid 'to beard the lion in his den,' or the liar in his kennel."

And here is still another: "Eds. *Defender*—Fearing you might not hear of it in any other way (?), I write to say that Elder Crocker had an appointment to speak at Oakfield, on the county-seat question, and some of the friends of Audubon announced that D. W. Powers would answer him. Last night (Monday) when Mr. Crocker came, others came also. Audubon was represented by several of her citizens, viz: E. H. Kimball, E. J. Freeman, B. F. Thacker, M. Nichols and others unknown to your correspondent. There were present also, J. M. Griggs, Charles Van Gorder, John Crane, and a house full besides. In due time the house was called to order and Washington Bartlett was elected chairman for the evening. Elder Crocker came forward and expressed himself as ready for the discussion with Mr. Powers; but, although he was present, the railroad company were not inclined to trust their case with an untried man, and he probably, not desiring to speak, an arrangement was entered into by which a debate was had between Mr. Nichols, on the one hand, and Messrs. Crocker and Griggs on the other. Mr. Nichols opened with a very fair speech, considering he had so lately got on that side of the fence, having, but a short time since, been employing his tongue and pen in favor of Exira, on which side I believe he did better work than he is now doing for Audubon. Query: What force was it that lifted him over the fence so suddenly?

"Mr. Crocker followed, completely refuting, as we think, the argument advanced by Mr. Nichols, who, at the conclusion of Mr. Crocker's remarks, again took the floor. His speech was of course, much like the first, but, seeing the 'cattle', as he called the opposing speakers, were somewhat stubborn and hard to handle, he 'shed his woolen' and went at them in his shirt sleeves.

"Mr. Griggs followed him with a complete refutation of his arguments. A number of happy hits were made on either side, and the speakers were all repeatedly and vociferously cheered. One or two things occurred that, to one not versed in matters of this kind, looked a little singular. Why was it that Kimball took a front seat, and occasionally, when he imagined he saw

something funny or of particular interest to their side, clapped his hands wildly, at the same time raising them high above his head and casting 'sheep's eyes' at his Audubon chums? Was it because he was the 'bell wether,' and when he jumped they were expected to follow? They followed any way."

It appears that Kimball stirred up Elder Crocker in his paper; but we are unable to discover what he said about the elder, which moved the reverend gentleman to wrath. But here is what Crocker said about Kimball:

"SKINNING A SKUNK!

"The *Audubon Daily Times*, which was probably already in process of incubation, bursts its shell and comes to life immediately after the warmth of the Oakfield discussion. The first issue of the daily wreaks its vengeance upon one J. M. Crocker, and merits only silent and supreme contempt, but, for the sake of the respectability whom he disgraces, by being their representative, we consent to answer. He proceeds to answer our arguments by his well-known method of warfare, by vomiting upon their author. He has not time to expose our fallacies but will after election; until then we must be silent by the ipsi dixit of a man who was never known before to tell the truth, when a lie would serve as well. For proof of my statements in the *Defender*, I refer to any correct county map. He states that in that article signed 'Goose Quill' I assailed him in an uncalled-for and ungentlemanly manner. Far from it. Everyone knows our attack was upon the only worthy and able editor in Audubon, the editor of the *Advocate*. We knew before that he could tell a lie; we know now that he can't tell anything else. He says the loan agents have trouble to get their papers promptly. Anyone who knows anything about the office work of the recorder knows that the supply of work is irregular, sometimes nothing to do for days at a time, then a rush and an overwhelming amount of it for a few days. It not unfrequently happens that amid this rush of work a half dozen long loan mortgages are handed in by nearly as many different firms, each wanting his work first. Now to do all this with entire satisfaction to all is perhaps an impossibility. But I apprehend that the firm to whom we have given the greatest dissatisfaction is the one we have most frequently and fruitlessly dunned for their long-standing arrears. But my chief sin is in making county speeches. Ah, that's the rub. I was not aware that it was any worse for the recorder to attend a meeting at Oakfield (leaving Exira at dark), than it was for editors, bankers, real estate agents, et al., from Audubon; and if their unconcealed ill-humor was an index to their moral consciousness,

they were guilty of a greater sin than those of Exira, who seemed to be well satisfied and in good humor. 'He has always been our friend.' That is the most disgraceful thing he says or could say. I flatter myself that this is also false. But at least whatever contumely we have been entitled to in the past by his friendship, we are at last relieved.

"He says we sold out to J. B. White. This is an infamous falsehood, that would stain the character of a demon. J. B. White lost his cause in Audubon county, as everyone knows, by his affiliations with the editor of the *Times*. But bad and imbecile as I am, I only lack one thing of being a saint, a scholar and a gentleman, and that one thing needful is to sell out to Audubon, body and suffrage; it is a transformation process. The idiotic editor of the *Sentinel* became a sane and sensible man; the violent Anti M. Nop, against the most scathing vindictives were already in type, surrenders his manhood in time to save his character, the type is distributed and the editorials do not appear and he becomes at once the spokesman for the removal cause, and their orator on high occasions. Indeed it is a transforming process. It would cover all our remissness and convert the viper to the dove. But, alas, we are not susceptible of the change; our evil is incurable because we cannot be bought, intimidated, nor bulldozed into favor with their lofty measures that involve our county in the liability for thousands of dollars; because we will not pander to their whims nor be awed into silence concerning their selfish schemes; because we dare to look with suspicion upon their proposed offers and expose the emptiness of their gulled gifts. But to sum it all up, he has told who and what we are. We will not attempt a like favor in his behalf for two reasons: First, the people of this county know him of old; second, no language is equal to the emergency; decomposition has proceeded so far in his case as to render dissection impossible; we can only trim him off a little around the eyes. Who is he? The man (forgive the false appellation) whose only aversion to farming is that his wife can't do the work; who was once recorder of Audubon county, to the sorrow of all who shall search the records, to the end of time; who left a fair picture of himself upon the records, in which the back ground of illegibility is only relieved by the abundance of palpable and glaring blunders, and but for his industrious wife, who did most and best of his work that outlived his official career, would only have been equalled by his moral lustre; who sold out J. B. White by staining the garments of a pure man by his own putrid impurity; who is a vulture of old upon the county treasury; who is now seeking to leap into the realization of his long-cherished desires for rapine and plunder upon the county; who has sold himself at every opportunity and never failed to

cheat the purchaser out of the full price paid; who is now spreading his feathers over his newly hatched daily, and would like to write an article for it if he had sufficient sense; in whom the vacuum of intelligence and refinement is filled with vileness and vulgarity; whose hatred of all that is lovely, excellent and pure, is only equalled by his ardent love of all that is villainous, vicious and mean; in whose estimation the sum of infancy is the freedom of unfettered manhood; whose papers, daily and weekly, are a mass of maggotty rottenness, that the vultures would disdain; a stain on the history of barbarism, an insult to civilization, and a stench amid the breezes from the bottomless pit; as an encomium and abuse as our highest praise.

"J. M. CROCKER."

The local newspapers of that period were filled with this style of effusions by the respective editors, sometimes better and often worse. These samples will suffice to indicate the abuses by which people were afflicted during that unhappy period.

During the campaign one of the Audubon papers gave out the following statement: "Captain Stuart authorizes us to state that if the people of Audubon county want the county seat at Audubon he will furnish a good, substantial building for court house purposes, much better than the county ever had, free of any expense to the county or taxpayers, and that he will enter into writings to that effect. He further says that the building shall be provided with fire-proof vaults for the county records."

But we have seen that the railroad company built the present court house for use of the county before the county-seat election came off. At the election the contest was decided by a vote of eight hundred and forty-one votes against six hundred and twenty, in favor of removal to Audubon. And the county records were immediately transferred to Audubon.

In 1905 an election was ordered to test the proposition of issuing bonds in the amount of sixty-five thousand dollars for the erection of a new court house at Audubon. It brought out violent opposition from people of various parts of the county. A number of business men of Exira executed a bond in the sum of forty thousand dollars, binding themselves to build a new court house at Exira, if the people of the county would re-locate the county seat there. The movement indicated that the memory of the old fights lingered in the breasts of the sons of the old contestants who were defeated in 1879. The bond operated as a bluff and the bond issue was defeated by nearly four hundred votes. The present year, Exira has built a costly new school house at their own expense. It is not clear what position the people of Exira may take when the time arrives for building a new court house.

CHAPTER IX.

RAILROADS, HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION.

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

The first traveled highway was the old Mormon trail, coming from the way of Des Moines, Adel, Redfield, etc. It entered the county near the "Divide," not far south of the northeast corner of Audubon township; thence down the divide between the water sheds of Troublesome and Crooked creeks, through Indian Grove (section 14, Audubon township), to Hamlin's Grove; thence down Troublesome to Grove City and Lewis and on to Council Bluffs. It was not a legally laid-out highway and ran across the country without following section lines.

It will not be amiss to notice some of the first legally established roads, which were generally laid out across the county without conforming to section lines, but conforming to the divides and highlands.

Old State road No. 1 was laid out by Dr. Samuel M. Ballard and Thomas Seely, as commissioners, in 1855. It commenced at the west line of Dallas county, at the terminus of a road laid there in 1849; thence by way of Bear Grove, entering Audubon county at the half-mile post on the north line of section 2, Audubon township; thence southwesterly down Troublesome to the township line at the corner of sections 7 and 18, same township; thence to Dayton (section 22, Exira township); thence through sections 28, 29 and 30, same township, to Ballard's bridge in section 36, in Oakfield township; thence by way of the Forks of the West Nishua river, in township 77, range 39, in Shelby county; thence to Council Bluffs. The portion of the road east from the old town of Dayton is practically obsolete.

County road No. 2 was located in December, 1855. The petitioners were: Daniel Crane, David L. Anderson, Hiram Perkins, David Edgerton, William Pangburn, John Sifford, Reuben Kenyon, Nathaniel Wiggin, John Crane, and Bryant Milliman. Nathaniel Hamlin was commissioner and Peoria I. Whitted, surveyor. Beginning on the east line of section 1, Audubon township; thence to the upper grove on Troublesome, in section 4, in Audubon township; thence to David's creek (Exira); thence to the Shelby county line, twenty rods north of the northwest corner of Sharon township.

County road No. 1 was laid out in 1855-6. The petitioners were: Nathaniel Hamlin, John Crane, Thomas S. Lewis, Isaac V. D. Lewis, O. Everett Marsh, Oliver Smith, Alonzo N. Arnold, Jonathan Decker, William Carpenter, Peoria I. Whitted, Richard M. Lewis, Daniel Crane, Robert A. Oliphant, Urbane Herrick and David L. Anderson. David Edgerton was commissioner and Peoria I. Whitted, surveyor. Beginning on the south line of section 31, Exira township; thence east across Troublesome, by Hamlin's Grove, and ending at the Guthrie county line at the corners of sections 12 and 13, Audubon township, the site of the present Lutheran cemetery.

County road No. 7 was located in 1857. Alvin Herrick was commissioner and Peoria I. Whitted, surveyor. Beginning at State road No. 2, in section 28, Exira township; thence north through Big Grove, Exira, Highland Grove, and termination on the Guthrie county line, eighty-five rods south of the corner of sections 24 and 25, Viola township.

County road No. 9, was located in 1859, being petitioned for by John E. McConnell, J. E. Ham, William S. Bush, Lyman Bush, William P. Hamlin, Avery Belcher, James Eagan, Charles Wiggin, William Nelson, Leonard Earley, Stillman H. Perry and Nathaniel Wiggin. Beginning at the east end of Depot street, Exira; thence east and ending at Judge Harris' breaking, near to county road No. 1, on the Guthrie county line.

These were the most important roads in the county up to 1860. The routes of travel were mostly confined to the high lands, across country, without following section lines in the first instance. Miles of road wound along the ridges, to avoid the streams and low, wet lands, and to avoid the building of bridges as much as possible. They were the natural ways for travel and soon became ideal highways. As the country settled up, they have been changed, mostly to conform to the section lines.

BRIDGES.

Bridges were then an expensive claim upon the limited resources of our thinly-settled county, but the people were equal to the demand. They could not build the costly structures we are erecting today; indeed, a single bridge such as we now build costs more than all the bridges built in the county for the first ten years. The first bridges were constructed by placing long, strong logs across the stream from bank to bank, the ends firmly buried in the ground, and were covered with poles and dirt. The



SCENIC VIEW, AUDUBON



WHEAT HARVEST SCENE

upper side was lowest, in order that the high water would pass over it entirely, and the weight of the water pressed the bridge covering firmly to the stringers, and thus prevented it from being swept away by the current. Such bridges had to answer their purposes, and they were convenient and safe, except in high water. Several accidents have occurred from these defective primitive bridges. About 1873, Hiram Jellison lost a valuable horse in attempting to cross the bridge west of Old Hamlin during high water, and the same year a traveler in attempting to cross Four Mile creek, east of Exira, had a span of horses drowned, where the bridge had been swept away by high water.

The next important change in bridges was by bedding heavy mud-sells in the stream, or near the edges, and erecting upon them heavy frame works high above the water, and covering them with plank for a roadway. They were not a success and were constantly swept away by high water, resulting in heavy losses.

In 1872 Mark Frary, of Atlantic, introduced the system of pile bridges, which was adopted by the county and used extensively to the present time. In recent years corrugated metallic tubes are being successfully used for culverts, instead of the small wooden bridges. The county has already replaced many wooden structures with concrete and iron bridges and culverts, and these improvements bid fair to be continued and increased.

ROADS.

For many years roadbeds have been graded, the hilltops cut down and hollows filled. Since the advent of automobiles, roads have been vastly improved and made better and smoother by a uniform system of road dragging. Under recent laws, the prospects are that in the near future defective highways in Audubon county will be a thing of the past. The River to River road, through the county east and west, passes through Exira. It would require a volume to enumerate the roads and bridges in the county, a very complete record of which is found in the county auditor's office, showing four hundred and seventy-five roads, ramifying all parts of the county, aggregating eight hundred and thirteen miles of roads.

There are now in the county five hundred wooden bridges, each over thirty-two feet in length; five hundred wooden bridges and culverts less than thirty-two feet in length; ten concrete and steel bridges, and three thousand corrugated metallic tube culverts.

RAILROADS AND TRANSPORTATION.

There was not a railroad in Iowa when Audubon county was first settled. In 1865 the Rock Island railroad reached the town of Kellogg, and the Northwestern railroad reached the town of Boone the same year. In 1866 the Northwestern reached Council Bluffs, and one railroad got through to Des Moines the same year. At that period the people of Audubon county first began to realize that they were in touch with railroad facilities.

The first pine lumber for building purposes was brought to Audubon county in 1866 for erection of the school house near Bradley Beers (Old Hamlin). In December, 1868, the Rock Island railroad was continued from Des Moines to Council Bluffs. In December, 1878, the branch railroad came from Atlantic to Brayton, Exira and Audubon. In 1882 the Northwestern railroad came from Carroll, by way of Manning, to Gray and Audubon. The Atlantic Northern railroad was built from Atlantic to Elk Horn and Kimballton in 1907.

HACK LINES, STAGES AND MAIL LINES.

John M. Donnel, called "Milt," came to Audubon county with Nathaniel Hamlin in September, 1851, and at first lived about Hamlin's Grove. Soon afterward, at least as early as 1853, he carried the mail from Adel to Hamlin's Grove, using some kind of wheeled conveyance. We are unable to learn how long it continued. At an early day the Western Stage Company established a line of coaches through Iowa by way of Des Moines to Council Bluffs. As early as 1857 the route was from Des Moines, by way of Adel, Redfield, Dalmanutha, Morrisons (Anita), Grove City and Lewis, to Council Bluffs. The exact date when the route was first changed from Morrison's to Hamlin's is uncertain. In June, 1865, it was running by way of Morrison's. Charles How, who now lives at Exira, drove the first coach from Bear Grove to Hamlin's Grove, July 18, 1865, when that change was made. It is not certain if the route had previously run to Hamlin's.

In October, 1865, the writer was a passenger in the Western Stage Company's coaches from Kellogg to Hamlin's Grove. The route then ran from Des Moines, by way of Adel, Panora, Guthrie Center, Bear Grove, to Hamlin's Grove; thence to Grove City, etc. Those coaches were the old-fashioned Concord, closed stages, with leather thorough braces (for

springs), and were drawn by four powerful horses. The drivers were veterans in their business and expert whips. With their long, graceful lashes, they could flick a fly from the ears of their lead horses without touching the horse, and could perform all other expert stunts peculiar to their calling. The coaches went out of use when the railroad reached Atlantic in 1868-9. While the stages went by way of Morrison's, mail was carried from that point to Hamlin's on horseback.

Before the town of Exira was founded, and as early as 1856, a man named Adams carried the mail, some times horseback and at other times with a buckboard, from Adel, by way of Exira, to Magnolia, giving service once a week each way. About 1860, E. B. Newton, of Guthrie Center, carried the mail by hackline, from Adel to Magnolia; but he changed the route by going from Bear Grove to Bradley Beers' (Old Hamlin); thence to Bowman's Grove, leaving Exira six miles to the south, and the mail was supplied to Exira from Beers.' In 1864, Newton was succeeded by John Crane, who carried the mail from Bear Grove, by way of Exira, to Magnolia, twice a week. This line was discontinued when the railroad reached Atlantic in 1868-9. In 1868 a hackline was established by David L. Anderson from Exira to Atlantic, with service twice a week. In 1875, he was succeeded by William P. Hamlin, who conducted a hack line over the same route until the railroad reached Exira in 1878.

About 1868 another mail line was established by William Thompson from Anita, by way of Hamlin's, to Exira, which was discontinued in 1878. A line was established in 1871, by John McFadden from Exira, by way of Leroyville, Irwin, Thompson and Elba, to Carroll. He was succeeded by William Thompson, he by John Robinson, and he by Sylvester K. Landis. This line was discontinued about 1880-2. Another line was established by William Gransberry, from Exira, by way of Leroyville, Irwin and Viola Center, to Coon Rapids, during the period last above named.

CHAPTER X.

AUDUBON COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR.

The population of Audubon county averaged less than five hundred during the War of the Rebellion. It had five hundred and ten inhabitants by the census of 1865. There were about one hundred men subject to military duty in the county during the war, thirty-one of whom served in the army during that period. About fifteen unmarried men did not go to the war, several of whom were not able-bodied and were unfit for military duty.

AUDUBON COUNTY UNION SOLDIERS.

David L. Anderson, private, Company D, Seventh Iowa Cavalry, enlisted March 6, 1863; discharged January 10, 1866.

John A. Anderson, private, Company D, Seventh Iowa Cavalry, enlisted February 13, 1863; discharged May 17, 1866.

William S. Anderson, private, Company B, Fifth Iowa Infantry, enlisted December 18, 1862; killed July 22, 1864.

William P. Beck, First Sergeant, Company C, Fourth Iowa Infantry, enlisted May 26, 1861; discharged December 10, 1862.

Silas D. Burns, private, Second Iowa Battery, enlisted August 26, 1861; killed June 19, 1863.

John W. Davis, sergeant, Company L, Fourth Iowa Cavalry, enlisted November 25, 1861; deserted December 22, 1863.

Henry T. Eagan.

James Eagan.

Richard S. Hallock, surgeon, United States Colored Infantry.

George W. Hardy, private, Company I, Twenty-third Iowa Infantry, enlisted August 15, 1862; died October 19, 1862.

James Howlett, private, Company D, Second Iowa Infantry, drafted, 1864.

Samuel Howlett, private, Company D, Second Iowa Infantry, drafted, 1864.

Lyman Jardine, private, Company I, Twenty-third Iowa Infantry, enlisted August 14, 1862; died June 27, 1865.

John T. Jenkins, corporal, Second Iowa Battery, enlisted August 18, 1861; discharged August 30, 1864.

James M. Jones, private, Second Iowa Battery, enlisted March 30, 1864; discharged August 7, 1865.

Orlin E. Jones, private, Second Iowa Battery, enlisted August 18, 1861; killed June 20, 1863.

John W. Montgomery, corporal, Company E, Third Iowa Infantry, enlisted May 21, 1861; wounded April 6, 1862; discharged June 17, 1864.

William M. Nelson, private, Company D, Twenty-ninth Iowa Infantry, enlisted August 13, 1862; discharged August 10, 1865.

Charles H. Norton, corporal, Second Iowa Battery, enlisted August 18, 1861; discharged August 30, 1864.

Robert A. Oliphant, corporal, Company B, Fourth Iowa Infantry, enlisted July 10, 1861; discharged August 30, 1864.

James A. Robinson, private, Company D, Twenty-ninth Iowa Infantry, enlisted August 15, 1862; discharged August 10, 1865.

W. Scott Rice, sergeant, Second Iowa Battery, enlisted August 26, 1861; discharged August 7, 1865.

Harry D. Shelley, sergeant, Second Iowa Battery, enlisted August 26, 1861; discharged April 3, 1863.

James Smith, private, Company I, Twenty-third Iowa Infantry, enlisted August 8, 1862; discharged July 26, 1868.

John F. Smith.

William F. Smith, bugler, Company L, Fourth Iowa Cavalry, enlisted October 7, 1861; discharged August 8, 1865.

William F. E. Smith, private, Company D, Seventh Iowa Cavalry, enlisted February 13, 1863; discharged May 17, 1866.

George R. Stephenson, private, Second Iowa Battery, enlisted March 30, 1864; discharged August 7, 1865.

Charles Van Gorder, captain, Company B, Thirty-ninth Iowa Infantry, enlisted August 22, 1862; wounded October 5, 1864; discharged June 5, 1865.

Nathaniel Wiggin, drafted.

John M. Wilcox, private, Company D, Seventh Iowa Cavalry, enlisted April 10, 1864; discharged May 17, 1866.

Of these soldiers, three were killed, two wounded, two died of disease and one deserted.

John Crane, Richard Gault and James A. Poage were drafted and furnished substitutes.

An incident of the early recruiting in the county for the war is the circumstance of the enlistment of John T. Jenkins, who still lives at Brayton, Iowa, being the last survivor of the little company of settlers who first came to Audubon county on May 6, 1851.

Several young men about Oakfield, in August, 1861, had agreed to enlist in Captain Spoor's Second Iowa Battery. "Uncle" Johnny Jenkins, who was a Kentuckian, a Democrat and opposed to the war, having heard that his son had so enlisted, spoke to him on the subject. "John," said he, "did you sign that paper to go to the war," or words to that effect. "Yes, sir, I did," said John. "Well, John, I don't want you to ever show yourself here with a hole in your back." Which ended the interview.

By the year 1864 the war was realized forcibly by the people of Audubon county. Many of its young men were in the army, and some had been killed or had died there; many at home felt that duty required their presence there to support their families, and some were violently opposed to the war. Party spirit was at extreme tension and people were hopelessly divided in political opinions. Volunteering had almost ceased; a draft for soldiers was ordered and actual strife at home was imminent. Some men said that if they had to fight, they would fight at home—or, in other words, resist the draft. It was a time that "tried men's souls." Some of the patriotic citizens organized the Loyal Legion, to try to influence public opinion and to enforce the law. The spot where they met, in an obscure ravine on section 21. Exira township, was many years ago shown to the writer by Howard J. Green, Esq., who then pointed out a tree under which he stood sentinel while good old Deacon Bush prayed for the Union cause. At the same time others were plotting and laying plans to defeat the Union cause. The Democrats then in the county were in the majority, while Republicans were in the Union army. We recall a story about a "secesh" in Exira, who became elated because he believed that Price's raid might reach Iowa, and he said that he would go to Missouri and meet Price's army and guide it here. Darius Barlow, who then lived in Exira, told him to go, and that he would see to it that he should never reach Price or his army.

The draft was peaceably enforced. John Crane, Richard Gault, James A. Poage, Urbane Herrick, George W. Sharp, Nathaniel Wiggin, James and Samuel Howlett were drafted; Herrick and Sharp were exempted; Crane, Gault and Poage furnished substitutes, and the others served their terms in the army.

The draft was conducted by John A. Hallock, then clerk of the district court, who was accused of making a false return of men who were drafted.

Those drafted were all Democrats, except two, Sharp and Wiggin, and one was his brother-in-law, John Crane.

About the same time, Governor Kirkwood ordered the organization of the militia. John T. Jenkins and Charles H. Norton had recently returned from the war; Horatio P. Smith, who had previously lived in the county, but had served in the Seventh Iowa Infantry, Benjamin F. Thomas and John S. Wright, who had both served in the army, also came to the county in 1864, all of whom were looked upon as suitable candidates for offices in the militia. There appears to have been a rivalry to secure the organization of the militia on a political basis, as if there was an advantage to be so obtained. An old man, J. Lyman Frost, a strong Republican and zealous partisan, took a hand and was a leader in the affair. He had been a Democrat in his day, according to Doctor Ballard, and, as if to emphasize his loyalty and patriotism, became vastly obnoxious to the Democrats in turn. He had ousted "Uncle" Natty Hamlin, first postmaster in the county, appointed by President Taylor in 1853, from the postoffice at Hamlin's Grove, on political grounds, Hamlin being a Kentuckian, and a strong pro-slavery man and Democrat, and had secured the postoffice for himself. Frost was a disagreeable man and had a penchant for getting into hot water with his neighbors, loving nothing better than to be in trouble with them. It is said that he was once a preacher. But he took part in the organization of the militia in favor of Smith and against Thomas, as appears from the records of the adjutant-general of Iowa. The following record shows the details of the organization of this military company:

"At a meeting of the citizens of Exira, Oakfield and Audubon townships, in the County of Audubon, State of Iowa, to form a military Company under Chapter 84, Laws of 10th General Assembly of the State of Iowa, the Following was the result of the election for Commissioned Officers of the Company.

Captain Horatio P. Smith
1st Lieut. Xerxes Knox
2d Lieut. John T. Jenkins

"Name of company adopted by meeting "AUDUBON MOUNTED INFANTRY.

"J. LYMAN FROST, President.

"CARLOS E. FROST, Secretary."

"MUSTER ROLL.

"Of the Mounted Infantry Company of Audubon County, organized under Chapter 84, Laws of the Regular Session of Tenth General Assembly of the

State of Iowa.

"We, the undersigned do hereby acknowledge to have entered the service of the State of Iowa, as provided in the afore-mentioned law and hereby subject ourselves to all the rules, regulations, provisions and disciplen as therein set forth, and all rules and regulations which may be hereafter promulgated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Militia of Iowa.

Name.	Rank.	Age.	Postoffice.	Residence.	Nativity.
Horatio P. Smith.....	Captain	31	Oakfield.....	Oakfield.....	Ohio.
Xerxes Knox.....	First lieutenant	30	Exira.....	Exira.....	Ohio.
John T. Jenkins.....	Second lieutenant	25	Oakfield.....	Oakfield.....	Kentucky.
Charles H. Norton.....	First sergeant	27	Oakfield.....	Oakfield.....	New York.
Dawson Glasgow.....	Second sergeant	40	Hamlin's Grove.....	Hamlin's Grove.....	Kentucky.
Benjamin F. Jenkins.....	Third sergeant	27	Oakfield.....	Oakfield.....	Kentucky.
George H. Simmons.....	First corporal	22	Exira.....	Exira.....	England.
Andrew J. Linn.....	Second corporal	30	Exira.....	Exira.....	Ohio.
Howard J. Green.....	Third corporal	33	Exira.....	Exira.....	New York.
Andrew Leffingwell.....	Fourth corporal	37	Exira.....	Exira.....	Massachusetts.
Anderson, Lesanthers.....	Private	18	Exira.....	Exira.....	Ohio.
Bateham, Vincent.....	Private	22	Exira.....	Exira.....	Indiana.
Barlow, Darius.....	Private	33	Exira.....	Exira.....	New York.
Bartlett, Washington.....	Private	43	Oakfield.....	Oakfield.....	Virginia.
Blackmar, James.....	Private	27	Exira.....	Exira.....	New York.
Bush, John D.....	Private	36	Exira.....	Exira.....	Massachusetts.
Davidson, Levi B.....	Private	37	Oakfield.....	Oakfield.....	Ohio.
Deeds, Cornelius W.....	Private	27	Hamlin's Grove.....	Hamlin's Grove.....	Ohio.
Dodge, Boynton G.....	Private	35	Exira.....	Exira.....	New Hampshire.
Donnel, John M.....	Private	38	Hamlin's Grove.....	Hamlin's Grove.....	Ohio.
Donnel, James N.....	Private	34	Hamlin's Grove.....	Hamlin's Grove.....	Ohio.
Edgerton, David.....	Private	37	Exira.....	Exira.....	Indiana.
Frost, Martin.....	Private	41	Oakfield.....	Oakfield.....	Ohio.
Frost, Carlos E.....	Private	37	Hamlin's Grove.....	Hamlin's Grove.....	Ohio.
Goodale, Almon.....	Private	36	Oakfield.....	Oakfield.....	Ohio.
Hardy, Andrew N.....	Private	44	Hamlin's Grove.....	Hamlin's Grove.....	New York.
Hallock, Richard S.....	Private	32	Oakfield.....	Oakfield.....	Illinois.
Hallock, John A.....	Private	29	Exira.....	Exira.....	Illinois.
Hallock, Isaac P.....	Private	26	Oakfield.....	Oakfield.....	Illinois.
Heath, Mark.....	Private	41	Oakfield.....	Oakfield.....	Ohio.
Hyatt, William.....	Private	18	Oakfield.....	Oakfield.....	Kentucky.
Lewis, Richard M.....	Private	43	Oakfield.....	Oakfield.....	Indiana.
Montgomery, Joel.....	Private	18	Exira.....	Exira.....	Illinois.
Norton, John.....	Private	27	Oakfield.....	Oakfield.....	New York.
Pearl, Wallace E.....	Private	35	Oakfield.....	Oakfield.....	New York.
Pearl, Joshua A.....	Private	34	Oakfield.....	Oakfield.....	New York.
Porter, Joseph.....	Private	36	Oakfield.....	Oakfield.....	Canada.
Sharp, George W.....	Private	34	Exira.....	Exira.....	Kentucky.
Tingle, John.....	Private	18	Oakfield.....	Oakfield.....	Iowa.
Tyler, Oliver P.....	Private	25	Exira.....	Exira.....	England.
Wilcox, Whitman.....	Private	40	Exira.....	Exira.....	Pennsylvania.
Wiggin, Nathaniel.....	Private	28	Exira.....	Exira.....	New York.
Walker, William.....	Private	30	Hamlin's Grove.....	Hamlin's Grove.....	Ohio.

Men over age who have joined the company, and if furnished arms will do as good service as they can:

Bush, Lyman.....	Private	50	Exira.....	Exira.....	Massachusetts.
Beck, Hiram M.....	Private	55	Hamlin's Grove.....	Hamlin's Grove.....	Ohio.
Frost, J. Lyman.....	Private	70	Hamlin's Grove.....	Hamlin's Grove.....	Connecticut.
Hallock, Isaac, Sr.....	Private	62	Oakfield.....	Oakfield.....	New York.
Lynn, John, Sr.....	Private	50	Exira.....	Exira.....	Ohio.
Montgomery, Levi B.....	Private	55	Exira.....	Exira.....	Ohio.
Norton, William C.....	Private	50	Oakfield.....	Oakfield.....	New York.
Wilson, James.....	Private	48	Hamlin's Grove.....	Hamlin's Grove.....	Kentucky.

Capt. Horatio P. Smith, sworn in, November 19, 1864.

First Lieut. Xerxes Knox, sworn in, December 17, 1864.

Second Lieut. John T. Jenkins, sworn in, December 3, 1864.

It further appears from the records of the adjutant-general of Iowa that another company of militia was attempted to be organized in Audubon county about November 8, 1864.

"MUSTER ROLL.

"Of Audubon County Riflemen, Organized in the County of Audubon under Chapter 84, Laws of the Regular Session of Tenth General Assembly of the State of Iowa.

"We the undersigned, do hereby acknowledge to have entered the service of the State of Iowa, as provided in the afore-mentioned law, and hereby subject ourselves to all the rules, regulations, and discipline as therein set forth, and all rules and regulations which may be hereafter promulgated by the commander-in-chief of the militia of Iowa.

Name.	Rank.	Age.	Postoffice.	Residence.	Nativity.
B. F. Thomas	Captain	22	Hamlin's Grove	Audubon Township	Ohio.
John S. Wright	First lieutenant	21	Hamlin's Grove	Audubon Township	Indiana.
Isaac Thomas	Second lieutenant	27	Hamlin's Grove	Audubon Township	Ohio.
John Crane	First sergeant	30	Exira	Exira	Ohio.
James Poage	Second sergeant		Hamlin's Grove	Hamlin's Grove	Illinois.
Isaac V. D. Lewis	Third sergeant	33	Hamlin's Grove	Audubon Township	Indiana.
Richard Gault	Fourth sergeant	31	Exira	Exira	Pennsylvania.
William P. Hamlin	First corporal	42	Exira	Exira	Kentucky.
Amherst Heath	Second corporal	39	Oakfield	Oakfield	
John M. Donnel	Third corporal	34		Audubon	Kentucky.
Peoria I. Whitted	Fourth corporal	35	Exira	Exira	New York.
Samuel G. Haywood	Fifth corporal	33	Hamlin's Grove	Audubon	Ohio.
Beers, Bradley	Private	40			
Ballard, O. R.	Private	25	Oakfield		
Birge, James	Private	25			
Brainard, A. I.	Private	38			
Bartlett, Washington	Private	43			
Blackmer, J. M.	Private				
Beers, David B.	Private	25			
Barlow, Darius	Private	33			
Bush, John D.	Private	36			
Calder, George H.	Private	36			
Carley, Lehman	Private	39			
Carpenter, William	Private	32			
Dodge, Boynton G.	Private	34			
Davidson, L. B.	Private	41			
Eagan, Samuel	Private	22			
Edgerton, David	Private	36			
Early, Leonard	Private	44			
Eagan, James	Private	28			
Frost, Martin	Private	41			
Frost, Carlos E.	Private	37			
Green, Howard J.	Private	36			
Goodale, Almond	Private	36			
Herrick, Edson	Private	44			
Herrick, Urbane	Private	40			
Herrick, J. D.	Private				
Hubbard, Julius M.	Private	33			
Hiatt, William H.	Private				
Heath, Mark	Private	40			
Howlett, Samuel, Jr.	Private	20			
Howlett, Samuel, Sr.	Private	30			
Heath, A.	Private	39			
Houston, A. B.	Private	40			

Hallock, Isaac P., Jr. -----	Private	24
Hallock, John A. -----	Private	28
Hardy, Andrew M. -----	Private	44
Howlett, James -----	Private	40
Jenkins, Benjamin F. -----	Private	26
Johnson, Samuel -----	Private	29
Jones, Giles N. -----	Private	33
Jenkins, Isaac H. -----	Private	21
Jardine, Walter J. -----	Private	19
Lewis, Richard M. -----	Private	42
Lettingwell, A. J. -----	Private	
Lewis, Thomas S. -----	Private	37
Milliman, Bryant -----	Private	36
Mullinger, William R. -----	Private	32
Norton, John C. -----	Private	
Poage, George T. -----	Private	
Parmley, Richard F. -----	Private	23
Pullam, R. F. -----	Private	33
Pearl, E. W. -----	Private	35
Pearl, Joshua A. -----	Private	33
Paige, J. A. -----	Private	21
Scharff, Michael -----	Private	27
Sharp, George W. -----	Private	34
Smith, Oliver -----	Private	30
Ward, Chauncey E. -----	Private	30
Wiggins, Nathaniel -----	Private	38
Walker, William -----	Private	30

The names of this roll show that all the officers of Captain Thomas's company, except one, and fifty of the privates were Democrats, some of them emphatic anti-war men. It appears that the commissions of the officers were sent by the adjutant-general to J. Lyman Frost, the then postmaster at Hamlin's Grove, a rigid Republican, to act as mustering officer, and to deliver them to the company officers-elect upon taking their proper oaths of office; but that he declined to muster them or to deliver the commissions, presumably because he knew many members of the company to be anti-war men, and of questionable loyalty or patriotism to the country.

Captain Thomas, who is now living, says that his commission was not delivered to him, but was found on the prairie, having evidently been thrown away. And he further says that arms were not issued to his men, as it was considered dangerous to do so, fearing that the men would fight among themselves, as the excitement was intense between the Union and anti-war men. He wrote recently that he was nominated for captain by John A. Hallock, and further says that one of the members of his company waylaid for John A. Hallock in the Big Grove, but failed to meet him. "Some things I would scarcely dare to write. It will take generations to blot out the evil that was sown in those days. When the draft was riot, ———— started for 'Uncle Natty's' by night to organize against it, but got lost in the darkness and returned. One night I had a dream that my company were rebels, dressed in butternut uniforms,—so I resigned." It has been stated that arms and ammunition were sent to the county and were secreted in the chamber of the house of Howard J. Green, to be used by the Union men if necessary; but this is doubtful.

An old settler, who is a Christian gentleman and a lifelong Democrat, recently told the writer that at the time President Lincoln was assassinated he met a man in the timber on the road from Troublesome to the steam mill (at Louisville), and, in conversation, asked him if he had heard the news. The man asked to what he referred, and he then informed him that it was reported that Lincoln had been assassinated. "Thank God for that," he fervently responded. The gentleman reproved him and said that he should not make such remarks.

The same gentleman also said that another prominent man on the same occasion set out free whiskey all day at his residence to any one who would drink it, in approval of the event, and was apparently rejoiced that Lincoln was gone.

The writer recalls that in 1865 it was currently rumored and believed that the anti-war party in Audubon county were elated at Lincoln's death. But in later years that fact has been disclaimed.

During war times Judge Daniel M. Harris published a violent anti-war paper, the *Guthrie County Ledger*, which was generally circulated and read in Audubon county. It was the Democratic organ in this part of Iowa. At a political meeting in the old school house in Exira in 1866, the Judge said that two things should be found in every family, the Bible and the *Guthrie County Ledger*. The latter part of the statement was literally observed by his followers.

The Judge once told the writer that, as a member of the Iowa Legislature, he supported every war measure passed by that body in 1861. He certainly changed his political sentiments soon afterwards. In later years his political utterances were greatly modified. Not long before his death he wrote and published in his paper, the *Missouri Valley Times*, on the occasion of the anniversary of Lincoln's birth, an encomium of Lincoln not surpassed for patriotism by anything then published.

The following letters from the adjutant-general of Iowa, confirm the statements of Captain Thomas, relative to the action of J. Lyman Frost and the militia.

"State of Iowa,
"Adjutant-General's Office,
"Davenport, October 15, 1864.

"Benjamin F. Thomas,

"Sir: Your letter to the Governor has been referred to me for answer.

"Your muster roll has not been received from Frost as yet. Get

proper blanks, make out your roll and certificate of election and forward direct to me, and your commission will be forthcoming in due time.

"They will be sent you through J. L. Frost, who will deliver them to you upon your taking the required oath.

"Yours etc.,

"N. B. BAKER,
"Adj.-Genl., Iowa."

"State of Iowa,
"Adjutant-General's Office,
"Davenport, December 5, 1864.

"B. F. Thomas,
"Hamlin's Grove,

"Dr. Sir: I have given J. L. Frost a peremptory order to issue your commissions after you have taken the oath—which may be done before any notary public or justice of the peace. Enclosed find blanks for the purpose. Write me if further delay is experienced.

"Yours etc.,

"N. B. Baker,
"A. G."

The records of the office of the adjutant-general show that commissions issued for the officers of Captain Thomas's company on November 19, 1864, but it does not appear that they were delivered to them. Captain Thomas now says that he and his commissioned officers were sworn in.

Notwithstanding the unhappy events related, which transpired locally at home during that period of hardships and distress, the soldiers who went to war and gave their lives and services to perpetuate the government, established a proud record and inheritance for the people of this county which is most estimable and should ever be profoundly cherished and never forgotten. They are richly entitled, as always has been the custom of the country, to have erected to their memories, elaborately carved in stone, at some convenient place, a monument, consecrated to their fidelity, patriotism and loyalty to the cause of the Union, and for which they served, fought, bled and died. Some of the people, who, in their short-sightedness, at that period opposed the war, some of whom are now alive, lived to witness their folly and to observe the great value and prosperity of this great undivided country, the best on earth; the home of teeming millions of prosperous, happy, intelligent, liberty-loving people; and great and powerful enough, and willing, to protect its citizens anywhere on earth. From such small beginning, the county reached its present, happy, prosperous position in the galaxy of sister counties in the great, proud state of Iowa.

CHAPTER XI.

THE BAR OF AUDUBON COUNTY.

The following list includes the lawyers, past and present, who have been admitted to the bar of Audubon county, with residences and dates of practice:

- Daniel W. Harris, Exira, 1854-1861, 1874.
Thomas S. Lewis, Audubon township, 1854.
John A. Hallock, Exira, 1863, never practiced.
John W. Scott, Exira, 1868.
John M. Griggs, Audubon and Exira, 1869 to date.
Daniel W. Scribner, Exira, 1869.
Henry F. Andrews, Exira and Audubon, 1870 to date.
Charles D. Gray, Exira, 1871-1875.
John Southwick, Exira, 1872-1874.
Emerson H. Kimball, Exira and Audubon, 1872, never practiced.
Richard W. Griggs, Exira, 1874-83.
Henry W. Hanna, Exira and Audubon, 1874-1902.
Melvin Nichols, Exira and Audubon, 1877-1885.
J. Mack Love, Exira and Audubon, 1878.
Frank M. VanPelt, Exira and Audubon, 1878-1884.
John A. Nash, Exira and Audubon, 1878-1913.
Byron S. Phelps, Exira and Audubon, 1878-1905.
Joseph L. Stotts, Exira and Audubon, 1878-1885.
Matt Matthews, Exira and Audubon, 1878.
Benjamin F. Thacker, Exira and Audubon, 1878, never practiced.
Henry U. Funk, Audubon, 1878-1903.
T. J. Reigart, Audubon, 1878.
J. O. Andrews, Audubon, 1878-1884.
Robert C. Carpenter, Audubon, 1878-1896.
Andrew F. Armstrong, Audubon, 1880-1893.
Robert G. Cousins, Audubon, 1881-1883.
E. E. Byrum, Audubon, 1884-90.
Charles Bagley, Audubon, 1882 to date.
K. O. Holmes, Audubon, 1882-1884.

- John W. McCord, Audubon, 1879-84.
E. H. Hurd, Audubon, 1888.
Frank E. Brainard, Audubon, 1884-1899.
Theodore F. Myres, Audubon, 1884.
Isaac L. Statzell, Exira, 1884-97.
George Love, Audubon, 1884.
William R. Green, Audubon, 1886-1914.
A. F. Bell, Audubon, 1880-3.
Walter R. Copeland, Exira and Audubon, 1890-1894.
Virgil E. Horton, Exira and Audubon, 1890-1910.
Daniel M. Reynolds, Brayton, 1890.
William Wonn, Audubon, 189— - 1899.
Bernard Noon, Audubon.
Henry M. Gray, Audubon, 1893.
James M. Graham, Audubon, 1894 to date.
John Mosier, Audubon, 1895-1901.
George F. Kapp, Exira, 1898-1905.
John A. Graham, Audubon, 1897 to date.
George W. Cosson, Audubon, 1898 to date.
Joe H. Ross, Audubon, 1899 to date.
William C. Elliott, Audubon, 1900-1912.
T. M. Rasmussen, Exira, 1904 to date.
Halleck J. Mantz, Audubon, 1904 to date.
Charles S. White, Audubon, 1904 to date.
Sidney C. Kerberg, Audubon, 1913 to date.
Lewis C. Bagley, Audubon, 1910 to date.

CHAPTER XII.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION OF AUDUBON COUNTY.

The following physicians have practiced, at one time or another, in Audubon county, the record also giving their residences and dates of practice :

- Samuel M. Ballard, M. D., Oakfield, 1851-1883.
Richard S. Hallock, M. D., Oakfield, 1856-1882.
James E. Ham, Exira, 1858-1863.
Arlington M. Harrington, Exira, 1865-1902.
William Johnston, Oakfield and Brayton, 1868-1883.
Cyrus Ingham, 1869.
Charles W. Jackson, Exira, 1869-1876.
James M. Rendleman, M. D., Exira and Audubon, 1872 to date.
——— Scott, Exira, 1874.
Charles H. Andrews, M. D., Exira, 1875-1896.
J. M. Louthan, Exira and Hamlin, 1875-1879.
J. H. Wheelis, Exira, 1875-1878.
John D. Holmes, M. D., Hamlin and Audubon, 1877-1890.
Hugh Bell, M. D., Audubon, 1878-1880.
John F. Cloughley, M. D., Audubon, 1878-1889.
John Riley, M. D., Exira, 1880 to date.
Peter M. Sheafor, Audubon, 1879-83.
A. T. Yeager, Viola Center, 1880.
R. H. Brown, M. D., Audubon, 1879.
Joseph T. Breniman, M. D., Audubon, 1879-1885.
S. H. Phelps, Audubon, 1880.
T. N. Kirkpatrick, M. D., Brayton, 1880-1883.
Ransom L. Harris, M. D., Audubon, 1881-1908.
Charles W. Ullrich, M. D., Audubon, 1881.
Frank L. Hinsdale, M. D., Gray, 1882-1883.
J. M. Guild, Exira, 1882-1886.
William A. Welch, Conkling and Exira, 1882-1885.
Robert Evans, Audubon, 1883.
Alfred L. Brooks, M. D., Gray and Audubon, 1883 to date.
C. D. Calkins, Brayton, 1883.
J. H. Schenck, Brayton, 1884-1886.

- Daniel G. Lass, M. D., Audubon, 1885-1886.
Charles J. Saunders, M. D., Audubon, 1885.
Charles W. DeMotte, M. D., Audubon, 1886-1897.
Lawrence A. Beers, M. D., Gray, 1886-1912.
J. H. Kern, M. D., Brayton and Kimballton, 1887-1891.
H. E. Jewell, M. D., Viola Center, 1887-1894.
E. E. Sprague, Audubon, 1887.
Warren A. Sayers, M. D., Brayton, 1887.
Howard D. Miller, M. D., Audubon, 1889-1902.
George W. A. Yates, M. D., Brayton, 1889-1890.
Fred Steffensen, M. D., Brayton, 1891-1902.
William R. Koob, M. D., Brayton, 1892 to date.
Christian Eger, Audubon, 1892-1896.
D. H. Lewis, Audubon, 1892.
John C. Newlon, M. D., Exira, 1893 to date.
N. P. Lauretsen, M. D., Exira and Audubon, 1894-1909.
D. W. Layman, Exira, 1894.
Jens Molgaard, Audubon, 1895-1898.
Thomas M. Jewell, M. D., Viola Center, 1895.
George W. Gleason, M. D., Audubon, 1895.
James A. Somerville, M. D., Audubon, 1897.
Ratford F. Child, M. D., Audubon, 1898 to date.
A. J. Beebe, M. D., Viola Center, 1898-1899.
Daniel Jackson, M. D., Audubon, 1899-1905.
John M. Fulton, M. D., Audubon, 1899 to date.
L. Slamborg, M. D., Kimballton, 1899.
Peter E. James, M. D., Kimballton, 1902 to date.
Fritz Rosenblatt, M. D., Audubon, 1904-1912.
Robert A. Jacobsen, M. D., Exira, 1905 to date.
James Richards, M. D., Audubon, 1905-1907.
William B. Thornburg, M. D., Gray, 1905.
Charles L. Smith, Gray and Audubon, 1907-1910.
George A. May, M. D., Audubon, 1911 to date.
J. E. Myers, M. D., Gray, 1912-1913.
Peter Soe, M. D., Kimballton, 1912 to date.
James P. Miller, M. D., Gray, 1912.
Eva D. Mosteller, M. D., Gray, 1912.
Daniel Franklin, M. D., Audubon, 1914 to date.
William H. Halloran, M. D., Audubon, 1915.
Charles L. Downer, Gray.

CHAPTER XIII.

THE PRESS.

The first newspaper in the county was the *Audubon County Pioneer*, started at Audubon City in December, 1860, by John C. Brown and J. J. Van Haughton. It was Democratic, and published the delinquent tax list for that year. It was moved to Lewis, Iowa, where the same proprietors started the *Cass County Gazette*, in January, 1861. Both were Democrats, but their paper stood for the Union, and in September, 1862, both became members of Company I, Twenty-third Iowa Infantry. Brown became captain and was killed at Milliken's Bend, June 7, 1863; Van Haughton succeeded to the captaincy, served through the war, and returned to Lewis.

About 1871, Lafe Young, editor and proprietor of the *Atlantic Telegraph*, devoted a page of his paper to Audubon county affairs and news, edited by H. F. Andrews. It was Republican. The *Telegraph* was selected by the board of supervisors as the official paper of Audubon county, on April 4, 1871, and, for the first time in the county, the proceedings of the supervisors were printed in a newspaper.

In the winter of 1870-1, the Democrats organized a printing company at Exira and started the *Audubon County Sentinel*, edited by Royal Lespenasse, a French gentleman. He was succeeded by James P. Lair, as editor. Later Lespenasse purchased the plant and continued it until 1873. The materials of the office were old-fashioned, badly assorted and worn, but its genial editor was an enterprising, energetic gentleman, who gathered and spread the news industriously, and let it be known that Audubon county and Exira were on the map. It served to advance public affairs as a resident newspaper. In the spring of 1873, Judge Daniel M. Harris came back to Exira, bought out the paper and changed the name to *Audubon County Defender*. He managed it a year and sold out. In 1874 Emerson H. Kimball took charge of the *Defender* as a Democratic paper. He was a New Hampshire Yankee and first approached Audubon county by way of Carroll, settling in section 16, Viola township. His acquaintance with Exira was as Democratic candidate for recorder in 1872. While electioneering that year he met a crowd in front of the Houston house in

Exira one evening, among whom were A. B. Houston, Albert I. Brainard, P. I. Whitted, the Cranes, and others of the most bitter types of the then Democracy. To attract their attention and enlist their support, Kimball blackguarded General Grant, and held him up to ridicule and derision as an incompetent and a butcher, comparing him with most uncomplimentary terms with that arch traitor and rebel, Gen. Robert E. Lee. John M. Griggs, who was present, became disgusted and insulted, and "called him down." He said, "Mr. Kimball, you were a soldier and should not speak in that way." "Yes, I was a soldier, but was never in a fight," answered Kimball. It appears that he served in the Thirteenth Maine Infantry, which, of all the Maine regiments, did not "smell powder." It was commanded by Neal Dow, of temperance fame, who was captured by the rebels at Port Hudson. But, upon finding what they had caught, they were disgusted with his lack of soldierly qualities, and sent word to the Federal authorities that if they did not send supplies for Dow, they would turn him loose.

So it is probable that Kimball was not a prize soldier. Perhaps he would have succeeded better under more favorable opportunities. He served two years as recorder, but failed of re-election. When he took over the *Defender* he erected a new printing office building and residence combined; and equipped the office with new materials in fairly good style. He conducted the paper and business strictly in the interests of the opponents of Exira, which arrayed the people of Exira and their friends against him. In 1877, through the influence of Joe Stotts, Kimball was bought up to support Hon. William F. Sapp, of Council Bluffs, Republican candidate for Congress. His paper changed on the instant, chameleon-like, to a Republican (?) organ. He came out with a statement that he was happy to live to see and reform the errors of his past political mistakes, etc., but that his paper henceforth would be Republican with a big R. No one believed his hypocritical cant and in the winter of 1877-8, he transferred his interest in the paper and left the county, despised alike by saint and sinner. To emphasize his disgrace, he was arrested on the charge of stealing a hog. He did not have friends enough in the county to float his disgraceful sheet longer.

In the winter of 1877-8, John A. Hallock and A. L. Campbell took charge of the *Defender* and conducted it as a Republican paper at Exira, successfully for several years, until after the removal of the county seat to Audubon, when they sold it to William A. Millerman and William A. Crane, who conducted it as a Democratic paper. Milliman sold his interest

to Van Buren Crane, and the proprietors, Crane & Crane, moved the concern to Audubon and the *Defender* was merged with the *Audubon Advocate*. Then Van Buren Crane sold his interest to Frank D. Allen and the firm became Allen & Crane. William A. Crane soon retired from the partnership.

About this time, 1888, the *Western Blizzard*, of Gray, was merged with the *Advocate*, and Frank D. Allen became sole proprietor and editor of the paper. It was not an influential journal under the management of Mr. Allen.

At some time after the Cranes obtained the *Defender*, Richard W. Griggs and Hiram Statzell published a "one-horse" sheet at Exira, called the *Defender*, which was sold to Bert Simmons, who turned it back to Griggs, and he took the outfit to Kansas in 1883.

In 1876 Mr. Lespenasse set up a new printing office at Exira and revived the *Sentinel*, under the management of D. D. Standiff, but Lespenasse did not then reside here personally. Typographically, it was in advance of any newspaper that had previously been printed in the county. It was a decided factor in driving Kimball out of business, by decreasing the circulation of his paper. The *Sentinel* was not a financial success and collapsed in 1877, for want of proper management, when Hallock and Campbell obtained control of the *Defender*.

In 1878 Harlan P. Albert started a Democratic paper at Hamlin, assuming the name and serial number of the defunct *Audubon County Sentinel*, which was soon moved to Exira and conducted there until the following year. It was then removed to Audubon and continued there until about 1884. This paper attracted some attention. Mr. Albert was a man with a head of red hair; hence was called "Pinkey." He gave to his paper the sub-title, or motto, of "Pinkey's Pious Paper," which, for notoriety, was sometimes printed on pink colored paper; but its character was far from any idea of piety. It was funny and witty; often obscene and indecent; not a choice article for family reading, nor suitable for Sunday school literature. Albert was industrious, persevering and freely catered the news. At one time he became fiercely hostile against John M. Griggs, the lawyer; loaded his paper with bombastic slurs and malicious comments and slanders about him; adorned himself with belt and pistols; wore Indian mocassins, and made loud threats of what he intended to do, etc. Griggs bore with him a while, but getting tired of the abuse, put a gun in his pocket and called upon Mr. Albert at his office. Upon meeting Albert, Griggs drew his revolver and announced: "I understood you were looking for me, and here

I am." Albert, who was engaged in locking up a farm, promptly threw an iron "shooting stick" at Griggs, but missed him. The sheriff and Mr. Nichols seized Griggs by his gun arm, but could not disarm him until he had emptied the contents of his gun into the ceiling. Albert would not stand fire, but fled, and Griggs was arrested. Not long afterwards the *Sentinel* was merged into the *Advocate*, and Albert left the county.

Like a bad penny, Kimball returned and, on January 1, 1879, on borrowed capital, under opposition, issued the first number of the *Audubon Advocate* at Audubon. As "Uncle Jim" Davis once said: "The cuss had talent." His aggressive, extravagant style took with the progressive element, who were promoting the young city and who had not yet learned his character. Benjamin F. Thacker soon became associated with him in the concern, under the firm style of Kimball & Thacker, but it was of short duration. Before the end of the year Seth Paine, who had furnished the capital for the enterprise, came on from Chicago and took possession of the plant, to obtain his pay. Under the management of Mr. Paine, the paper was improved and secured a reliable standing. He was energetic and sought the improvement of the community. On January 1, 1881, he issued an edition of four thousand five hundred copies of the paper, giving the county, and especially the town of Audubon, a grand boom, which was sent broadcast over the country and even to Europe. This effort was supposed to have brought the result of many new settlers to the county. In 1882 the paper was sold to R. Moore Carpenter, who conducted it successfully, as a Democratic organ. In 1888 it passed to Crane & Crane and in the same year Van Buren Crane sold his interest to Frank D. Allen of the *Western Blizzard*, and the firm became Allen & Crane. Mr. Allen soon became sole proprietor. Under his control it was a failure, and exerted but little influence.

In 1879 Emerson H. Kimball again entered the journalistic field as proprietor and editor of the *Times* at Audubon, virtually a gift from the railroad company. His prospects were the brightest of anyone who had ever started in the newspaper business in the county. But he had not yet learned the faculty of success. He turned the paper to the abuse of those with whom he did not agree, and the kindnesses of his friends were devoted to promote his own selfish ends. He stirred up and kept alive the antagonisms between Audubon and Exira, and spared no efforts to slander and scandalize everybody with whom he disagreed. He kept slanderous effusions standing in the columns of the paper against those he disliked for pure devilishment, until people became tired and disgusted with

him and his paper. On one occasion his firm and fast friend, Arthur L. Sanborn, postmaster at Audubon, fell into some difficulty with the post-office department, and Kimball went to Washington, ostensibly to accommodate the matter for his friend, but returned with a commission to himself as postmaster at Audubon. Of course, friendship ceased between Kimball and Sanborn.

In 1885, when the Jellison murderers were taken from the jail and lynched at Audubon, Kimball gave an account of the affair in his paper, indicating approval of it, saying that at the time of his writing, parties were in an adjoining room to his office discussing and arranging for the lynching. There were rumors at the time that Kimball was present at the lynching, but those who knew him believed he was too big a coward to risk getting hurt by taking an active part in it. His decline was as sudden as his rise had been. The paper flattened out in 1886, and he shipped his office materials away from Audubon in the name of another than himself, presumably to avoid creditors. When he left he was owing one party several hundred dollars, which has never been paid. He went to the wilds of Wyoming, and was soon in difficulty there. High officials in Wyoming wrote to parties in Audubon seeking to learn Kimball's character.

About 1881-2 a man named Jones published a newspaper at Gray, the name of which is forgotten. It was continued by Hiram Statzell a short time.

In 1885 Timothy Y. Paine, a crippled youth, son of Seth Paine, Esq., for pastime, published the *Liberator*, a weekly paper, at Audubon. At first it was a folio, about a foot square, which was increased to a four-column folio, all composed by the proprietor, and printed by him on a hand-press. It contained a neat directory of the professional men and business houses of Audubon, with the current news, witty, spicy paragraphs, and a few specially selected "ads." It was the pet and pride of the owner, whose life was attached to his little paper, and it was generously patronized for his sake. Poor little Timmy died suddenly in 1888, and the paper ceased with his death. It was one of the bright spots in the history of Audubon.

In September, 1885, George W. Guernsey established the *Audubon County Journal* at Exira. It was independent and non-partisan, and took the serial number of the former Exira paper; but was virtually a new enterprise. Mr. Guernsey was a practical printer and journalist. He gave one of the best newspapers ever published in the county. It continued after his death and was published by his widow, who in 1899, sold it to C. A.

Marlin, who conducted it as an independent Democratic organ. He turned it over to his brother, Chester A. Marlin.

Samuel T. Thompson published the *Gray Eagle* about 1889-90.

The *Audubon Republican* was started by Ed B. Cousins and Sidney Foster at Audubon in December, 1886. The firm was Cousins & Foster. Foster was succeeded by William H. McClure about 1888, and the firm became Cousins & McClure. In February, 1894, they sold the business to James E. Griffith, who sold it to David C. Mott in the spring of 1897. On July 1, 1905, Mott sold it to Albert C. Ross, who continued the business and sold the paper to the present proprietor, Henry J. Hoogenakker, October 1, 1911. It has been a straight Republican journal from its organization and the leading party organ in the county. It is an ornament to journalism and has always wielded a healthy influence in the political, social and business affairs of the community.

The *Western Blizzard*, an independent journal, was started by Allen & Waitman, at Gray in 1887. Frank D. Allen soon became proprietor. Its motto was: "It blows for humanity." Its character was suggested by its name—bizarre, boisterous, sensational, extravagant and lurid; but it did not appeal to the tastes of people generally. It merged into the *Audubon Advocate* about 1888-9. In 1889 the *Audubon Advocate* was sold by Mr. Allen to Robert C. Spencer and James M. Graham. It was edited a short time by John A. Graham, when Mr. Graham's interest was sold to S. C. Curtis and the proprietors have since been Spencer & Curtis, with Mr. Spencer as editor and manager, and Mr. Curtis as publisher and foreman. It is Democratic in politics and is a leading, popular newspaper.

In 1891, Nis Larsen, now of Brayton, established a non-partison paper at Audubon, printed in the Danish language, called the *Dansk Folketidende* (Danish People News). It continued two years and was transferred to Elkhorn, Iowa.

H. F. Andrews started a job printing office at Exira, in 1900, which continued until 1905.

On January 1, 1905, the Lancelots became proprietors of the *Audubon County Journal*, and have since added to the already well-equipped plant of the paper. It is one of the up-to-date journals of western Iowa. The proprietors have adhered to the original policy of the paper of making it strictly a newspaper, and have not hesitated to speak out on national, state and local issues when vital to the interests of good citizenship. It is an independent paper.

The *Kimballton-Elk Horn Record* was founded at Kimballton, by G. R. Osborn, January 1, 1913, and is a non-partisan paper. It was incorporated in March, 1915. The present editor is Fred N. Harmon.

Audubon county was cursed at times by some of its newspapers, as has been shown, but for many years they have been all that could be desired in any community. By their untiring efforts and public spirit they have been prominent, influential factors in promoting the social affairs of the people and in developing the business interests of the county.

CHAPTER XIV.

BANKS AND BANKING.

The first bank in Audubon county was organized by Franklin H. Whitney (of Atlantic, Iowa), and Charles Van Gorder, at Exira, in July, 1876, and was called the Audubon County Bank. It had a capital of one thousand dollars. Whitney was president and Van Gorder, cashier. About 1882 it was sold to Louis E. Brown and Erwin Watson, who changed the name to the Bank of Exira. They closed out its business by an assignment for the benefit of creditors about 1888. In 1878 Whitney and Van Gorder started a branch of the Audubon County Bank at Audubon, from which Mr. Whitney retired about 1884-5 and Mr. Van Gorder became sole proprietor. It was succeeded in 1893 by the First National Bank of Audubon—Charles Van Gorder, president; Frank S. Watts, cashier—which has continued until the present time. The present officers are: E. S. Van Gorder, president; Frank S. Watts, cashier.

The Citizens Bank of Audubon was incorporated in 1881, by Nathaniel Hamlin, William Walker, A. L. Campbell, Frank P. Bradley, John M. Griggs, William F. Stotts and Joseph L. Stotts, and was sold in 1884 to Ethelbert J. Freeman and Andrew F. Armstrong. It passed out of existence in 1893 by an assignment for the benefit of creditors.

About 1883, William Leet founded the Commercial Bank at Audubon, which continued, with various cashiers, until 1910, when it was bought and merged in the First National Bank of Audubon.

On February 5, 1889, Charles Van Gorder, as president, and John Gray, as cashier, started the Exchange Bank of Exira. Mr. Gray retired from the firm, since which Mr. Van Gorder has been sole proprietor, with Edwin Delahoyde as cashier.

The Farmer's Exchange Bank was established at Gray, Iowa, about 1893 by George P. Wiley, who sold it to Mr. Creglow about 1897. It was conducted by William Linderman, cashier. About 1900 it was sold to Leet & Boysen, of Audubon, and was conducted by Ed Beason as cashier; afterwards by John E. McGuire, cashier, and, later, by Ed C. Rice, cashier. About 1907 it was sold to Lida L. and Helen Leet, and conducted by Ed C. Rice, cashier. On January 1, 1912, it was incorporated as the Farmer's

Savings Bank, of Gray, and has since been conducted by Ed. C. Rice, cashier.

In 1893-4, Lois G. Stuart founded the Corn Exchange Bank at Audubon, which continued, with various cashiers, until 1907, when it was bought and merged in the First National Bank of Audubon.

In 1894 Lois G. Stuart organized the Stuart Bank at Exira with P. M. Christensen as cashier. It was sold and was succeeded by the First National Bank of Exira, which was incorporated on July 7, 1903, and which still continues the business. James M. Carlson is cashier.

In 1895 James E. Bruce, of Atlantic, Iowa, established the Bank of Brayton, at Brayton, with Walter Falkner as cashier. It was sold in 1897 to Pollock Brothers, Henry Pollock, cashier. In 1900 it was sold to Charles Van Gorder, John McDaniels and Edwin Delahoyde, with L. F. Miller as assistant cashier and manager. It was succeeded by the Brayton Savings Bank, which was incorporated in 1913, with L. F. Miller, as cashier, and which still continues in business.

In 1907 Emil Bilharz organized the Farmer's State Bank at Audubon, which still continues in business.

On September 3, 1907, the Landsman's Bank was founded at Kimballton, with Charles Van Gorder, president, and Hans Madsen, cashier. It was incorporated on December 27, 1907, as the Landsman National Bank, with Hans Hadsen, president, and Alma Madsen, cashier.

On October 25, 1907, the Danish Savings Bank was incorporated at Kimballton, with S. C. Pedersen, president, and Peter Lykke, cashier. The present cashier is Math Nissager.

The Farmer's Savings Bank was incorporated at Hamlin Station in 1913. L. C. Christoffersen is cashier.

CHAPTER XV.

CHURCHES AND RELIGION.

THE COUNTRY CHURCH.

By Jeannie Pendleton Ewing.

Clear-eyed and prim, with walls of white
Among the leaves of birch
That tinged but did not stem the light,
Nestled the little church,
"All summer open to the air
And all that green a-quiver there.

About were tender, dreamy sounds:
The stamp of horses' feet,
The mumbling bees upon their rounds
Where clover nodded sweet,
A piping quail—the grain low-bent
Showed where her furtive flutterings went.

Next father in the pew's long row
Came urchins sternly shod;
Next mother—for she planned it so—
The child who first would nod,
Laying, when sermon-time oppressed,
His poppy cheek upon her breast.

Bare stretched your aisle and long your hour
To many a childish wight,
Wee church! yet, rich in holy power,
You blessed as angels might.
Long years have gone—our faith is true:
Long years we've prayed, because of you!

By Alexander Holt Roberts.

Justinian, the Roman lawyer, in defining the highest duty of man to man, said, "The perfection of human duty is, to do good to all men; injure none; and to render to every man his just dues." Confucius, the great Chinese philosopher, expressed a similar thought in a different form, when he enjoined upon his followers the following negative rule, "Whatsoever ye would not that others should do unto you, that do ye not unto them." These are both good in so far as they go, but it remained for a young Hebrew,

whose spotless life, teachings and character gained for him, among his followers, the name "Divine Lawgiver," and who was the original of the Christian religion, to give affirmative expression to the great law of human action in a form now called by all men, the Golden Rule, "Whatsoever ye would that others should do unto you, do ye even so to them," and then that other great commandment, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart" and "thy neighbor as thyself." Each has his adherents, and fortunate indeed were the American people to have such ancestors as the Pilgrim Fathers, who, upon Plymouth Rock, acknowledged their thankfulness, and allegiance to Almighty God.

As civilization marched westward, in the front ranks of the pioneers have always been found the followers of the "Man of Galilee," and it is not surpassing strange that so early in the life of our county we find, assembled in a log cabin, those who were desirous of clearing the way, and casting up a highway for the Master's army to pass over in coming years.

The presence, or absence, of churches in a community is of great significance, and reveals at once to the observer the general character and makeup of its people, for the highest civilization is only to be found where church spires abound.

To those pioneer men and women of God, those first sowers, preachers and teachers of the Word, we acknowledge our obligation and cherish their memory. We regret that, after the lapse of sixty years, one who endeavors to record their deeds finds himself handicapped for want of records.

Our state has such a complete system of records, that the writer of civil history has little difficulty in ascertaining and establishing certain facts, whereas, the records of the average church are so meager, and so little effort is made to preserve what they do have, that the historian is compelled to search for oral testimony where he may find it. And so, in this way, we find that in 1855 Rev. Moses F. Shinn, presiding elder of Council Bluffs district in the Methodist Episcopal church, delegated Rev. James S. Rand, a Methodist, to organize the work in Audubon county. Hence we find Reverend Rand, in the first week in June, 1855, preaching in the first public religious service held in the county, in the pioneer cabin of Walter J. Jardine, on section 28, now Exira township. After the service he organized a Methodist class, with Walter J. Jardine, as class leader and William H. H. Bowen as steward. The following were enrolled as members: W. H. H. Bowen and wife, Eliza; Walter J. Jardine and wife, Jane; Isaac V. D. Lewis and wife, Mary J.; Thomas S. Lewis and wife, Josephine B.; Richard M. Lewis and wife, Elizabeth; Mrs. Sarah G. Lewis; Mrs. Miles Beers; Emily J. Beers.

Isaac V. D. Lewis, to whom we are indebted, and to whom we extend thanks, for this information, is the only living member (1915) of that first class, the others having all been "gathered to their fathers."

At variance with this, is "A History of Audubon County," published by W. S. Dunbar & Company, Chicago, in 1889, its editor being anonymous, which says: "A Rev. Mr. Mann came to the county as early as 1854 and first sowed the seeds of Methodism. He gathered a few of that faith together at the home of William H. H. Bowen, one mile southwest of Hamlin's Grove. Later on, quite a number of Methodists settled about Exira and a class was duly organized at the home of Levi Montgomery, near the present plat. Rev. James Rand was the first preacher, coming in 1856-57. The names of those forming this first class, which was also the first in Audubon county, are as follows: Levi Montgomery and wife," etc.

This "history" is undoubtedly in error, as Isaac V. D. Lewis, who still lives on the old place south of Exira (his postoffice is Brayton), insists that Rev. Mr. Rand was the first preacher, and it appears reasonable that a mistake may have been made, as the sound of the names "Mann" and "Rand" are so similar, that evidently the party who gave the information as to Mr. "Mann," had forgotten the real name, or the reporter to whom the information was given misunderstood the name.

This view of the case is further supported by the fact that the records of the Iowa conference, which had jurisdiction over all Iowa at that time, did not contain the name "Mann" at that time.

This, without reasonable doubt, establishes the fact that the minister referred to was Rand, as he had charge of the Cass mission at that time.

The first quarterly meeting was convened in the first week in September, 1855, in the grove at Mr. Jardine's place (section 28), and was presided over by Reverend Shinn, I. V. D. Lewis being elected recording steward. The residence of Peter Sylvester now stands upon the very ground on which those meetings were held.

Later, a class was formed at Exira, and one at Oakfield, with Richard M. Lewis as leader. This class became obsolete many years ago.

The work continued, under direction of those in charge, taking up new points and forming new classes as opportunities presented, until about 1870, when the Exira circuit was formed, which continued to cover the whole field of the county until the annual conference of 1875, when Exira circuit was divided into two separate works in regard to preaching, but left united with regard to quarterly meetings. Rev. E. M. H. Fleming was presiding elder; Rev. W. T. Reed, pastor for Exira circuit, and Rev. J. M. Bay, pastor for Hamlin circuit.

At the first quarterly meeting held at Luccock's Grove, November 13, 1875, Joseph McFadden, H. K. Emory, D. E. Rich, W. C. Luccock and F. A. Cobb represented Hamlin circuit, Exira circuit not being represented. The pastor's salary for Exira circuit was fixed at \$240, apportioned as follows: Exira, \$110; Louisville, \$45; Grove, \$40; Oakfield, \$25, and Thomas Grove, \$20. The salary for Hamlin circuit was placed at \$200 and apportioned, Hamlin, \$65; Luccock's Grove, \$65; Sanborn, \$40, and Graham, \$30.

The next quarterly conference met at Exira, January 22; 1876, with T. A. Lampman, presiding elder. A class of ten was reported organized at the Green school house.

At the next quarterly conference, held April 28, 1876, at Hamlin, E. Weaver was elected steward and two new points were added, Earhart's and Diggs'. Charles Walker was recommended for license to preach.

In 1877 we find Rev. John Histwod as presiding elder, Rev. G. H. Detwiler, pastor, and the following classes represented: Hamlin, Miller's, Sanborn's, Diggs', Graham's, Earhart's, Viola and Baker's. The following official members were in attendance: Charles Walker, P. McKinley, E. S. Weaver, F. A. Cobb, C. H. Earhart, J. C. Bonwell, L. Miller, William Wilde, S. D. Conrod, H. C. Diggs, W. S. Smyth, A. Dixon, J. W. Brackney, Auntie Meek, C. H. Sampson, Aaron Eby, George Eby, C. H. Cross, J. T. Bell, A. Hollenbeck, William McAfee, D. C. Bartshe.

Up to this time, aside from the Methodists, these were but two other denominations holding services in the county, the Congregationalists and Christians, both at Exira. Up to 1877 there had been but two church buildings in the county, to wit, the Congregational church, in Exira, and the Methodist church, in Exira, the religious services at all other points having been held in school houses or in the homes of some of the members.

About this time, with a large influx of settlers and immigrants, the various preaching points took on new life and pretensions, and this was especially true in 1878 with the incoming of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad, and for some years following, so that we will now take up the individual churches of the various denominations. But, before doing so, we wish to record two especial events affecting the religious life of the county. These were the revival meetings held by Rev. W. A. Sunday in Exira and Audubon.

SUNDAY MEETINGS.

The meetings at Exira were held in September, 1901, and the following comments upon these meetings appeared in the *Audubon County Journal*, published at Exira:

"BIG CROWDS AT THE TABERNACLE.

"Never in the history of Exira has the attendance and interest been so great as in the union meetings now in progress at the tabernacle in the park, conducted by Rev. W. A. Sunday. Each evening the large crowd begins to assemble early, and by the time the song service ends every seat is taken. * * *

"The principal and, we might say, the only subject among all classes of people is the meetings now being held in the tabernacle in the park, and the marvelous results that have been achieved and the potent influences for good that have been accomplished. * * * The men's meeting, Sunday afternoon, presented a scene that words cannot express and the seed sown at the meeting will, in years to come, show itself in the lives of those present. Twenty-nine men, in the prime of youth and noble manhood, went forward and turned their backs upon sin and worldly amusements. * * *

"Sunday evening closed the meetings that have been in progress for the past three weeks in the tabernacle in the park, and Rev. W. A. Sunday departed for his home in Chicago on the Monday noon train.

"As a result of the meetings, two hundred and sixty people were converted and will at once unite with the church of their choice. The greater part of the work has been accomplished during the past week. No one predicted such a complete and overwhelming victory for the united efforts of the various churches of the town.

"At the closing service, Sunday night, over one thousand people were present to listen with marked attention to the matchless eloquence, and his fearless and forceful, logical and consistent argument. At the close of the last service, when the invitation to come forward was given, forty-eight people went forward.

"A free will offering was taken at the Sunday service, to remunerate Mr. Sunday for his tireless efforts, which amounted to eight hundred and seventy-three dollars, being one of the largest collections ever taken to support him in his laudable and commendable work.

"No one who has listened to his burning words of truth has any fault to find with his methods, and heartily endorse his work; and no one can tell the appreciation as expressed by the general public for the valuable services he has rendered this community by teaching the higher and noble virtues in the various walks of life's duties.

"At least two hundred were at the depot, Monday noon, to bid Mr. Sunday and his singer, Mr. Fisher, goodbye. A chorus of voices sang song after song, and as the train pulled out the crowd sang, 'God be With You

Till We Meet Again.' Mr. Sunday will ever be held dear to the people of Exira and the many warm friends here will fondly cherish the memory of him who worked so hard for their joy and comfort, and for the eternal peace and happiness of their homes."

While the meetings were in progress in Exira, a committee went from Audubon to Exira and arranged with Mr. Sunday for a series of meetings in Audubon.

Satisfactory arrangements having been made, on January 21, 1902, Mr. Sunday and helpers arrived and began what proved to be the greatest meeting ever held in the town, four churches, the Methodist, Presbyterian, Christian and Evangelical, uniting and becoming responsible for the financial part of the meetings.

The following quotations from *The Audubon Advocate* express the sentiment of the community with reference to the meetings.

"THE REVIVAL.

"When we say revival, we have no fear of contradiction, for it is really and truly a revival. Evangelist Sunday has been at work in our midst a little over two weeks, and the old town is not what it used to be. We have seen some pretty warm political campaigns in Audubon, but the present religious campaign makes all those very tame indeed. Sunday's meetings are talked on the streets and in every place of business. It is the main, and almost the only, topic of conversation. Snow drifts and cold weather are no obstacles when people are headed toward the great revival. The interest is daily increasing. Many who but seldom if every are seen at church, are now regular attendants and many have gone forward. Many who bitterly opposed Evangelist Sunday, or scoffed at his work, are now his most ardent supporters, and are seen on the streets, as well as in the meetings, urging others to attend and unite with the many who have gone forward. * * *"

"The Union gospel meetings, which have interested the people of Audubon for the past two months, are now closed, and a matter of history. They began on January 21 and closed on February 16. From the very start, they were largely attended, filling the large Methodist Episcopal church, and later, when they were removed, the larger Presbyterian church was crowded. The men's meetings were the marvel of the series. There were three of them, and the attendance was about seven hundred at the first to nine hundred at the last. Such a concourse of men was something new to Audubon. A sight such as many a person never saw before. All this is evidence of the power of the subject of religion on the hearts and minds of men.

"There is no other subject that the greatest men might discuss, with the best skill of modern learning and oratory, that would have drawn and held one-tenth of the people one-half so long as the subject of religion. * * *

"The last Sabbath services were interesting throughout, when one thousand five hundred and forty-one dollars were given as a free-will offering to Mr. Sunday. Also a purse of thirty-four dollars to Fred Fisher, his singer, from the choir.

"The total number of conversions was four hundred and thirty-four. The attendance Sabbath evening was fully one thousand three hundred and many were turned away for want of room."

Thus, by these meetings were all of the churches strengthened, their membership increased, the moral tone of the whole county elevated, and among the strong and active workers and supporters of the churches today, many date their interest and consecration to the work from the time of the Sunday meetings.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EXIRA.

About the year 1858, Deacon Lyman Bush came to Exira from North Brookfield, Massachusetts. On April 9, 1859, the First Congregational church of Exira was organized, and at about the same time a Sunday school was organized at Exira by Deacon Bush. The remainder of Deacon Bush's life was principally devoted to the advancement of this church, holding Sunday meetings and preaching when obtainable, prayer meetings, Sunday schools, funerals, looking after the employment of preachers and raising subscriptions to pay them.

Preaching and Sunday schools were usually held in the old school house, and prayer meetings often in private houses. About 1870 the deacon visited his old home in Massachusetts and, while there, collected from his old neighbors and friends more than one thousand dollars for a church building at Exira. The building, thirty-two by forty feet, was erected in 1870-71, John W. Dodge and H. U. Hansen being the principal carpenters and builders. The church was reorganized on May 10, 1871. The church edifice was dedicated on July 16, 1871, Revs. J. W. Pickett, C. D. Wright and John F. Taft being the officiating clergymen.

This was the first church edifice in the county and is still occupied by the church. The first resident pastor was Oren Cummings.

At the death of Deacon Bush he left one thousand dollars as a perma-

ment fund, the interest of which, only, was to be devoted perpetually to support the ministry, and this fund is now intact. The present membership is about seventy-four.

The deacons have been Lyman Bush, Boynton G. Dodge, Enoch Croy, David Sewell, William C. Sturgeon, John D. Bush, Henry Seibert, Louis E. Borne, William Wissler and Frank Heath. The church has been faithfully served by the following pastors: Oren Cummings, E. S. Hill, C. D. Wright, John S. Taft, A. J. R. Smith, R. W. Burgess, J. M. Cummings, J. A. Hallock, A. W. Thompson, D. M. Hartsough, Q. C. Todd, A. M. Beman, Joseph F. Roberts, M. D. Reed, H. L. Wissler, E. H. Votard, W. W. Hartsough, J. L. Fisher, F. H. Richardson, W. L. Holly, James H. Mintier, Noah A. Hollingshead, and Rev. Jessie Gettys, who is the present pastor.

Today this is the only Congregational church in the county.

OAKFIELD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

About 1866-8 a Congregational church was organized at Oakfield, Exira township. The following were members of this church: E. W. Pearl and wife, William C. Norton, James M. Jones and wife, Herman G. Smith, Marianne Smith, Joe Barham and wife, John C. Norton.

This church was supplied by Rev. Edwin S. Hill, from Grove City, and Rev. C. D. Wright, from Exira. This church is now extinct.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, EXIRA.

The birth of the Methodist church in Exira properly dates from the organization of the Levi B. Montgomery class in 1855. The members of that class were Levi B. Montgomery and wife, George W. Sharp and wife, Nathaniel Wiggins and wife, Mrs. Mary Anderson, Mrs. Ann Crane, with Rev. J. S. Rand as first pastor.

At the twelfth annual session of the Iowa Methodist Episcopal Conference, in September, 1855, Exira was included in the Cass mission, Council Bluffs district, and Rev. Rand was again appointed pastor and seventy-five dollars appropriated from the missionary funds of the conference toward his support.

At the conference in September, 1856, Audubon and Shelby counties were united, under the name of Audubon and Shelby mission, and Rev.

J. M. Baker appointed pastor, with seventy dollars from the conference missionary funds toward his salary.

In 1857 Audubon mission stood alone, with Rev. J. M. Baker again as pastor, who, at the end of the year, reported sixty members and thirteen probationers. Also one Sunday school, with five officers and teachers and twenty scholars. This was the first Sunday school in the county.

At the conference in September, 1858, Audubon and Lewis were united, under the name of Lewis and Audubon mission, and fifty dollars appropriated from the mission funds to apply on the salary of Rev. J. M. Rust, who was appointed pastor, with residence at Exira. At the end of the year Rev. Rust reported sixty members and ten probationers, one church building, four Sunday schools, twenty-four officers and teachers and one hundred and fifty scholars.

At this time the development of the country had become so rapid, the trail of the Indian having given place to the steel rails of the railroad now pointing to the Missouri river; the hunting grounds having become fields of waving grain; the tepee and Indian village being supplanted by comfortable homes and thriving towns; the population becoming more dense, and the territory of the conference being so great, consisting of all of Iowa, all settled portions of Nebraska and part of Missouri; that at the sixteenth session of the Iowa annual conference at Muscatine, held in September, 1859, it was deemed the wise thing to divide the conference, and the Western Iowa conference was organized. Audubon county was included in the Audubon and Lewis mission, Council Bluffs district, and Rev. D. B. Clary was appointed pastor, with residence at Exira. At the end of the year Rev. Clary reported eighty-seven members and fourteen probationers, five Sunday schools, with two hundred and two members.

In September, 1860, at the first session of the Western Iowa conference, Rev. C. F. Spooner was appointed to the Lewis and Audubon mission, and, at the end of the year reported ninety-eight members, forty probationers and four Sunday schools, with one hundred and sixty members.

At the annual conference in September, 1861, a new district was formed, called the Lewis district. Lewis was detached from Audubon and made a station. Audubon was called Audubon mission, Lewis district, and Rev. C. F. Spooner was appointed as pastor, with sixty-two dollars and fifty cents appropriated from the mission funds to apply to his support. At the end of the year, Reverend Spooner reported seventy-six members and seven probationers, two Sunday schools, with seventy-nine members.

In September, 1862, Rev. S. W. Milligan was appointed pastor to

Audubon mission, with sixty-five dollars appropriated from the Mission funds. He reported sixty-seven members and nine probationers, three Sunday schools, with ninety-eight members.

In September, 1863, Audubon and Lewis were again joined as Audubon and Lewis circuit, and Rev. S. W. Milligan was appointed pastor. The circuit was then composed of the following classes: Lewis, Grove City, Middle Grove, Audubon (city), Exira, Oakfield and Buck Creek, including one hundred and three members, thirteen probationers and four Sunday schools, with one hundred and eighty-two members.

In September, 1864, the name Western Iowa annual conference was changed to Des Moines annual conference, and a new district formed, called Wintust district, of which the Lewis and Audubon circuit was a part, with Rev. N. L. Phillips as pastor. At the end of the year, Rev. Phillips reported one hundred and five members, twenty-one probationers and four Sunday schools, with one hundred and forty-four members.

In September, 1865, Rev. John G. Gates was appointed pastor and reported one hundred and thirty-one members, fifty probationers and seven Sunday schools with two hundred and thirty members.

In September, 1866, M. Sheets was appointed pastor and reported two hundred and eight members, fifty-one probationers and eight Sunday schools with three hundred and fifteen members.

During the years 1867-8-9 the circuit was known as the Grove City circuit and was composed of the following classes: Grove City, Audubon City, Exira and Oakfield, with the following pastors: Rev. William Abraham, in 1867; Rev. W. H. Records, in 1868, and Rev. Jacob Levan, in 1869.

In 1870 the name of the circuit was changed to Exira, Atlantic district, and included all of Audubon county and some points in Cass. Prior to this time, services had been held in private homes or the school house. From 1870 to 1873 they were kindly permitted to use the new Congregational church at Exira. The pastors were Rev. J. G. Gates, 1870-71, and Rev. George W. Saint, 1872.

Reverend Saint died just after the fourth quarterly meeting and just before the annual conference. Then came Rev. George W. Cauffer in 1873. During this year a church edifice twenty-four by thirty-two was erected on the site where Squire James P. Lair now resides. This was the second church building in the county, the other being the Congregational church in Exira. Rev. B. L. Jackson (supplied) in 1874, and Rev. W. T. Reid served in 1875.

In 1875 Exira circuit was divided and a new circuit, called Hamlin,

formed, embracing the north nine townships of Audubon county. Rev. John W. Hardin came in 1876; Rev. W. R. Douglas, in 1877; Rev. O. E. Moore, in 1878; Rev. C. H. McIntosh supplied in 1879; Rev. D. C. Adams supplied in 1880; Rev. J. W. Bott was pastor in 1881 and 1882.

In 1881, the church not being large enough to accommodate the growing congregation, plans were laid and steps taken, money solicited, and a new building, of larger proportions, was erected and dedicated by the presiding elder, Rev. W. T. Smith, on January 22, 1882.

The next pastor was Rev. W. W. Dauner in 1883, after whom followed Rev. F. T. Stevenson, 1884-5; L. C. Burling, 1886-7; R. T. Leary, 1888; A. B. Shipman, 1889; J. S. Morrow, 1890; D. H. K. Dix, 1891-92; Rev. W. J. Richards, 1893; Rev. C. H. Miller, 1894; Rev. L. H. Humphey, 1895 and 1896; Rev. O. T. Nichols, 1897 and 1898; Rev. R. C. F. Chambers, 1899; Rev. J. M. Whitehead, 1900; Rev. J. E. Nichol, 1901 and 1902; Rev. E. C. Holliday, 1903; Rev. T. G. Aten, 1904; Rev. A. Dove, 1905; Rev. J. A. Howard, 1906; Rev. E. W. Bates, 1907; Rev. W. E. Harvey, 1908; Rev. John Harned, 1909-1910-1911; Rev. George A. Lawton, 1912; Rev. Henry P. Grinyer, 1913-14, who is the present pastor.

The present membership is about forty. The church maintains a flourishing Sunday school and a splendid Epworth League.

Since 1896, the Hamlin class has been affiliated with this charge, and at present Buck Creek class is also a part of the work.

OAKFIELD CLASS OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

A class was formed in about 1856-7 at Oakfield, with Richard M. Lewis as leader, and was a part of the Audubon and Lewis circuit. This class is now extinct.

Audubon and Lewis circuit, in 1864, was composed of the following classes: Lewis, Grove City, Middle Grove, Audubon City (in section 25, Exira township), Exira, Oakfield and Buck Creek, and at other times the preaching points changed.

FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, AUDUBON.

In giving a history of this church we find that we cannot do better than copy a historical sketch written by A. H. Roberts and read at an anniversary meeting of the church held in December, 1913. It is as follows:

"At the meeting of the Des Moines conference in 1875, Exira circuit was divided and a new circuit formed named Hamlin, and including all of

Audubon county north of Exira. Rev. J. M. Bay was sent as pastor and, at a salary of two hundred dollars, served one year. Then came Rev. G. H. Detwiler, who served very acceptably two years. By reference to minutes of the fourth quarterly conference, held August 10, 1878, we find that S. D. Coonrod was appointed a committee to secure church property in the new town (as Audubon was then called). At the conference of 1878, Rev. Detwiler was succeeded by Rev. J. W. Lewis, under whose pastorate the class in Audubon was organized. At the first quarterly conference of this year, held at Irwin, November 7, 1878, the pastor's salary was placed at \$500, and apportioned as follows: Irwin, \$225; Viola, \$200; Audubon, \$100; Diggs, \$30. This would indicate that the membership of that quarterly conference had faith in the new town; for there had not up to this time been any religious service in the town, neither was there a public building in which services could be held. But the school building on Davenport street was then in course of construction and on December 15 following, the first service was held, being a sermon by Rev. J. W. Lewis, the congregation consisting of fifteen persons, viz: Frank Hobart, J. W. Pollet, W. E. Campbell, E. M. Funk, A. H. Roberts, John Schaly, J. H. Thorp, M. Leach, Peter Theilen, Doctor Brown, William Cloughly, P. McKinley, W. H. Scott, Noah Keller, and George A. Atkinson.

"The unique thing about this congregation was that it was composed entirely of men, not a woman being present. When we remember that in the ordinary congregation women are largely in excess of men, this strikes one as being at least peculiar, but the explanation is, there were not at that time to exceed five women in the town.

"From this time on, services were held every two weeks. First in the above mentioned school house, then in the court house, and later in the new school building, and finally in the new church. As time passed the services were increased to one service each Sunday, and later to two services.

"The second quarterly meeting for the year of 1878-9, was held in Audubon, February 8 and 9, 1879, at which time A. H. Roberts was elected trustee for Audubon and a committee appointed to solicit funds for the erection of a parsonage in town. The committee did not meet with the success deemed necessary in order to undertake the work, so the matter was dropped.

"The first communion service held in the town was at this meeting and Audubon was reported as having paid five dollars to support the ministry.

"On April 13, 1879, a Sunday school was organized and the following officers elected: Superintendent, A. H. Roberts; assistant superintendent,

Chester Wheeler; secretary, Miss Kate Cameron; treasurer, E. W. Beghtol. Number of scholars present, twenty-three. For more than a year this was the only Sunday school in town. Some time during the same month the society, or class, was organized and M. D. Bailey appointed leader.

"At the third quarterly meeting at Irwin, May 1, E. W. Beghtol, S. H. Schryver and Chester Wheeler were added to the board of trustees. At the fourth quarterly meeting a resolution was passed, requesting the name of the circuit be changed from Hamlin to Audubon. Accordingly the annual conference, in September, 1879, changed the name to Audubon circuit and sent Rev. A. W. Armstrong as pastor, whose salary was placed at \$500, apportioned as follows: Audubon, \$150; Irwin, \$150; Viola, \$150; Cameron, \$50; the Diggs appointment being dropped. On September 22, the board of trustees, composed of P. McKinley, Chester Wheeler, J. A. Miller, S. H. Schryver and A. H. Roberts, executed articles of incorporation as provided by the laws of the state, and steps were taken looking toward the erection of a church edifice, a subscription being started, headed with three fifty-dollar subscriptions. The first money paid toward the enterprise was two dollars by S. W. Smith, September 26, 1879.

"After the completion of the court house, we were permitted to use it until January, 1880, when through the kindness of the board of directors we were permitted to furnish and use the east upstairs room in the new school building. This we continued to use the balance of the year. The trustees having put in the foundation on May 17, the contract for enclosing the church was awarded to R. A. Chaplin for one thousand three hundred and seventy-five dollars.

"At the fourth quarterly conference, held July 17, the trustees in their report said: 'We have during the year incorporated according to law and have received as a donation from the Rock Island Railroad Company, lots 26 and 27, block 7, of Audubon, upon which we have in course of construction a church thirty by fifty with a corner tower ten by ten. The contract for enclosing the same, including laying the floor, was awarded to R. A. Chaplin for one thousand three hundred and seventy-five dollars. We have received from the Church Extension Society five hundred dollars. Two hundred dollars as a donation and three hundred dollars as a loan.'

"Although Bro. A. W. Armstrong had been in the ministry but one year, yet he took hold of matters with a master hand, doing a great amount of hard and faithful work during the summer in soliciting, collecting, etc., and even to performing of manual labor on the building. For well do I remember having seen him seated upon a scaffold near the top of the belfry,

with brush in hand, doing the work of an artisan. He closed a very acceptable year in September, in proof of which he received from the class in town \$223.95, being \$75.95 in excess of our apportionment, the outside points, however, not having paid their apportionment in full. Thirty-eight were received by letter on the circuit during this year. Rev. W. C. Smith was the next pastor, coming in September, 1880, whose salary was fixed at six hundred dollars and one hundred and twenty dollars for house rent, the preaching points being the same as in the previous year.

"After many hard struggles by the official members, for you must remember we had no wealth in the church then, unless it was a wealth of perseverance and trust in God, the church was in December, ready for dedication, having cost about two thousand three hundred dollars. Presiding Elder Smith conducted the dedication services on December 12, at which time seven hundred and fifty dollars were raised and the church cleared of indebtedness excepting the three hundred dollars due the Church Extension Society, which was paid in annual payments. At the expiration of the first year, Reverend Smith, in accordance with the wish of the charge, was returned, his salary this year being \$800 including house rent. The apportionment was as follows: Audubon, \$600; Irwin, \$120; Lone Willow, \$80; Viola and Cameron having been cut off and made the nucleus for a new circuit. During the two years' pastorate of Reverend Smith, the church gained strength quite rapidly by accessions by letter, also twenty were received on probation. The conference of 1882 sent Rev. L. M. Campbell as pastor, who served one year, at a salary of six hundred dollars and one hundred and ten dollars for house rent. The circuit at this time consisted of but two points, Audubon and Lone Willow. Sixteen were received on probation this year and a goodly number by letter. Rev. J. W. Bott was appointed pastor in September, 1883, and served three years. The first year the salary was six hundred dollars and one hundred and forty-four dollars for house rent. The second year six hundred dollars; the third year five hundred dollars, and parsonage rent. During the year 1884, Lone Willow as a preaching point was dropped, the membership having moved away and dissensions having arisen within the class to such a degree that it was impossible to keep up the organization, thus leaving Audubon a station. During the year 1885, our parsonage was bought and moved to its present location and repaired, at a cost of about four hundred dollars. Three hundred dollars of this debt was paid by borrowing from the Church Extension Society, and this obligation was canceled in December, 1890. From the pastor's report to the last quarterly conference of his pastorate we glean the following: Probation record during the three

years, 32; received by letter, 32; total accessions during the three years, 64; removals in various ways, 69; removals in excess of accessions, 5.

"In September, 1886, Rev. J. B. Harris came as pastor and Methodism at once began an advance movement. Members were seen in the pews who had not been there for months and the outside world began moving our way. Brother Harris remained three years, the salary being six hundred and fifty dollars and parsonage rent the first year; eight hundred and fifty dollars and rent the second; and one thousand dollars and rent the third year, all of which was paid in full. In 1887 repairs were made on the church, including the putting in of the gallery, painting, papering, etc., at a cost of some six hundred dollars, and in 1889, a kitchen was added to the parsonage, at a cost of about one hundred and thirty-five dollars. There were received during the three years eighty-two probationers, the church experiencing some gracious revivals, the membership quickened and the attendance at the social meetings increasing to a fair-sized audience, the membership at the close of the third year being one hundred and forty-three. It was the wish of Presiding Elder Blodgett that Brother Harris be returned for the fourth year, but being fearful that his physical strength would fail, at request of himself and nearest friends, a change was made and in September, 1889, Rev. E. E. Ilgenfritz was assigned to Audubon and remained four years, under whose ministrations the church continued to prosper. Many of us remember him as a tireless worker, and one whose ability to get to the bottom of our pockets has seldom been equalled, and never excelled. We had for some time felt the need of more room in order to accommodate those who desired to attend our services, and had at various times discussed the matter of adding to the old church or building a new one, but the old building being in such shape that it could not well be added to, and the cost of building a new one so great, the matter was put off from time to time, until at a meeting of the official board held January 26, 1891, the members of the board pledged two thousand five hundred dollars, and a committee was appointed to solicit subscriptions.

"The members and friends responded so readily and liberally, that the trustees, on February 9, voted to at once make preparations for building. Foster & Libbe, of Des Moines, drew the plans and bids were asked from contractors. Closing services in the old church were held from April 8 to 12, a number of former pastors participating and 'goodbye' was said to the old church, Sunday, April 12. The building, exclusive of foundation, tower and furniture, was sold to T. J. Campbell for two hundred dollars.

"On April 27, Hart, Markley & Eddy were awarded the contract for

building the church above the foundation, and Cavinaugh, of Atlantic, given the contract for the foundation. The corner stone was laid by P. E. Franklin, assisted by Rev. Ilgenfritz, and in it was deposited a Bible, hymn book, discipline, history of the Audubon church, names of presiding elder, names of pastors, names of trustees, roll of membership of the church, copies of the *Audubon Republican and Advocate* and *North Western and Central Christian Advocates*, etc.

"While erecting the new church, our services were held in the court house and on October 25, the church, being complete excepting the basement, was dedicated by P. E. Franklin, assisted by Revs. Ilgenfritz, J. B. Harris, A. W. Armstrong, E. Dickinson, pastor of Presbyterian church, and R. A. Smith, pastor of the Baptist church. The cost of the church was \$8,042. \$1,752 was needed to free the church of debt. A subscription was taken and \$1,949 was pledged. In 1893, the basement was finished and in September of that year the annual session of the Des Moines conference was held in Audubon and, although our resources for entertainment were taxed to the utmost, by the help of outside friends and the members of the other churches, we were enabled to win the praise of the ministers for our hospitality, and in this connection, I am sure we owe our Presbyterian friends a debt of gratitude for the royal manner in which they assisted, opening their homes as freely as our own members.

"This conference assigned Rev. A. T. Jeffrey to Audubon, who remained with us one year, and spiritually, this was one of the best years in our history; prayer meetings being very large and the attendance at Epworth League being so large the rear room would not accommodate them, but were held in the basement.

"In September, 1894, Rev. W. M. Dudley was assigned to Audubon and did excellent work for three years and was sent back for the fourth year, but was soon promoted by the presiding elder to fill a vacancy at Atlantic and Rev. W. H. Shipman was transferred from Dexter to Audubon. Brother Shipman remained two years. It was during his pastorate that the saloons were opened, under a petition that the board of supervisors declared sufficient, but which the courts declared insufficient. I am of the opinion that the saloons would still be here were it not for Brother Shipman's courage in fighting them.

"In September, 1899, Rev. R. W. Matheny was assigned to Audubon and rendered two years of acceptable service. Especially were the evening congregations large, the young people flocking to hear him. It was during his pastorate (in 1900) that the present parsonage was bought at a cost of two thousand dollars, one thousand two hundred being paid on it.

"The salary from Brother Harris up to this time was one thousand dollars per year and parsonage rent, excepting the last year of Brother Shipman the salary was placed at eight hundred and fifty dollars, but nine hundred and thirty-seven dollars was paid to him.

"In September, 1901, Rev. P. J. Vollmer was sent to Audubon and remained two years. In January and February, 1902, the 'Sunday meetings' were held and one hundred and eighty probationers received into our church; one hundred and twelve of these were received into full membership. Rev. Vollmer's salary was placed at one thousand one hundred dollars, but only one thousand twenty-nine dollars was paid the first year and one thousand forty-seven dollars the second.

"In September, 1903, Rev. A. A. Walburn was sent to us and remained two years. Under his able preaching and wise administration the church again began the advance movement, but Brother Walburn was very seriously handicapped first by the illness, and later by the death of Sister Walburn, who was taken home July 5, 1904. Brother Walburn's salary was one thousand two hundred dollars per year and parsonage rent.

"In September, 1905, Rev. A. R. Grant was assigned to Audubon, and under his ministration our church continued to prosper and take on new life and activity in all departments; the prayer meetings showed increased interest and attendance, perhaps more than any other service, and the raising of a subscription of one thousand two hundred dollars, with which to liquidate the debt of eight hundred dollars on the parsonage and four hundred dollars to provide a steel ceiling for the auditorium of our church indicate that our members and friends were still very much alive. The salary remained at one thousand two hundred dollars and parsonage.

"At the annual conference in September, 1907, Rev. P. V. D. Vedder was assigned to Audubon and did efficient and acceptable service until August, 1908, when, while taking his vacation, which he was spending on his farm in North Dakota, Brother Vedder was stricken with paralysis and from that time on was unable to preach. At the annual conference in September, at the request of our fourth quarterly conference, Brother Vedder was again assigned to Audubon and his salary again placed at one thousand two hundred dollars and parsonage rent, which was paid in full, notwithstanding he was never able to preach, but the pulpit was supplied by neighboring pastors by arrangement with Brother Vedder until the first of May, 1909, when he secured Rev. D. B. S. Prather, who had just graduated from Northwestern School of Theology at Evanston, as assistant pastor until conference in September, 1909.

"Brother Prather had done such acceptable service and had so endeared himself to our people that a unanimous request was made, and a committee consisting of E. Bilharz, W. C. Elliott and A. H. Roberts, was appointed and went to Ames to plead for the appointment of Brother Prather as our pastor, but the plea was refused and Rev. J. P. Morley assigned to Audubon, who served one year. In September, 1910, Rev. J. H. Freedline was sent us and is now serving his fourth year, this being only the second time in the history of the charge where a pastor has remained longer than three years and our church now thinks we have one of the best preachers in the Des Moines conference.

"For some time we had felt the need of some improvements at the parsonage and of a choir room. So, in 1911, we boldly waded into the matter and made improvements costing three thousand dollars, consisting of a choir room eighteen by twenty-two, veneering the foundation and basement story of the church with Des Moines flint brick and painting the outside. The addition of the choir room fills a long-felt want, for it not only means a comfortable, commodious and pleasant place for the choir to meet, but is also used for other small meetings as well as making a new and needed entrance and vestibule to the church parlors.

"While upon the subject of choirs, it is but proper to say that our large chorus choir is one of which our church is proud, and has been one of the strong elements in our work since the organization of our church, the best musical talent of the town having been associated with us in our choir.

"At the parsonage the one-story kitchen was raised to two stories and a modern bath room installed above, a porch built in front, a hot-air furnace put in, the whole parsonage repapered and painted outside and in, and this year the Ladies' Aid Society has refrescoed and decorated the church inside, and recarpeted, with Wilton velvet Brussels carpet at an expense of five hundred dollars.

"Revival meetings have been held at various times, and at the meeting this fall upwards of sixty decided to live Christian lives and forty-three were added to the church. Our Sunday school, Epworth League and other societies of the church have all been helpful factors in carrying on the Master's work, and as we enter upon the thirty-sixth year of our work as a church, we do so with a firm faith that the Master will still use us for the advancement of his cause.

"The presiding elders serving during the existence of the charge are: Rev. John Hestwood, September, 1876 to 1880; W. T. Smith, September, 1880 to 1882; W. C. Martin, September, 1882 to 1885; C. W. Blodgett,

September, 1885 to 1890; D. C. Franklin, September, 1890 to 1896; W. W. Ramsey, September, 1896 to 1899; W. O. Allen, September, 1899 to January, 1904; William Stevenson, January, 1904, to the time of McDade's appointment; Rev. E. W. McDade, 1909 to 1915.

"The Sunday school has during these years in the main continued to prosper, although, being a branch of the church, has, of course, felt the waves of depression that have come to the church, yet it has had no small influence in sustaining and upholding the church and moulding Christian character. In fact, twice in the church's history, we believe the Sunday school was the principal factor in binding and holding our people together. Our Epworth League was organized in 1891 and has been a strong factor in training our young people to be Christian workers and loyal supporters of the church. The first cabinet was: A. H. Roberts, president; M. Johnson, first vice-president Ella Van Scoy, second vice-president; Ellis Harper, third vice-president; Myrtle Sharp, fourth vice-president; Myrtle Wilson, secretary; Hettie Van Scoy, treasurer. The present cabinet is: President, John M. Renftle; first vice-president, Gladdys Fancher; second vice-president, Hazel Mooreman; third vice-president, Lucile Wright; fourth vice-president, Vina Fancher; secretary, Margaret Weston; assistant secretary, Wanda Wright; treasurer, Etta Kennells; organist, Eloise Buck; chorister, W. W. Smith. The Junior League, Ladies' Aid Society, Women's Foreign Missionary Society and Women's Home Missionary Society have each done their share in sustaining and carrying on the work, although I have not the statistics of their work at hand.

"God has been gracious in sparing the lives of our members, and yet, while the shadows have been falling on homes all around us, we could not but expect that some of our members would be called from the church militant to the church triumphant. Some have peacefully fallen asleep, others have died triumphantly, and because of these bright examples of Christian living and dying; because of the severing of heart strings, many of our members feel that they have stronger ties to bind them to the eternal world than before. There are many who, by their lives of piety, Christian zeal, liberality and devotion to the cause, are worthy of special mention, but time forbids, and although their good deeds may not be recorded here, there is the assurance that in the record written on high, they will receive the proper recognition and there will be no errors there."

Since the above was written, the church has continued to prosper. Rev. Freedline completed his four years of very successful pastorate in September, 1914, and the conference sent Rev. Jackson Giddens as pastor, who is

giving very acceptable service. The present membership of the church is three hundred and forty-five, and of the Sunday school over three hundred. **A. H. Roberts is now serving his thirty-seventh year as superintendent of the Sunday school.**

At her death, in 1913, Mrs. Lois G. Stuart remembered this church in her will by a bequest of one thousand dollars, which is greatly appreciated by all the members. The following have served as lay delegates to the lay **electoral conferences: 1879, Charles Walker; 1883, A. H. Roberts; 1887, A. H. Roberts; 1891, John Van Scoy; 1895, Dr. C. W. DeMott; 1899, A. H. Roberts; 1903, A. H. Roberts; 1907, Mrs. A. L. Brooks; 1911, A. C. Ross; 1915, A. H. Roberts.**

In 1900 A. H. Roberts represented the Des Moines conference as a lay delegate in the general conference at Chicago.

ROSS M. E. CHURCH.

The Ross class of the Methodist Episcopal church was organized in 1892 as a part of what was then Audubon circuit, the other points on the circuit being Bethel, Melville Center and Sunny Side. The charter members or **Organizers were: J. J. Quimby and wife, Charles Kibler and wife, A. J. Eddy and wife, and others.** The church building, which is twenty-four by thirty-six in size, with vestibule and spire, was erected in 1892 under the ministrations of Rev. A. V. Knepper and cost one thousand two hundred dollars. It was dedicated on June 4, 1892, by Rev. E. E. Ilgenfritz.

The following is a list of those who have served as pastors: Rev. A. V. Knepper, Rev. W. J. Richards, 1893; Rev. T. W. Tippet, 1894; Rev. I. H. Elliott, 1895; Rev. Samuel Krell, 1896-7; Rev. C. H. Miller, 1898; Rev. O. T. Nichols, 1899; Rev. M. F. Loomis, 1900; Rev. George Weyrauch, 1901-2; Rev. E. W. Bates, 1903; Rev. E. H. Moore, 1904; Rev. B. Shinn, 1905; Rev. M. L. Hill, 1906; Rev. E. B. Scoggen; Rev. C. S. Lyles, who is the present pastor. The class is now a part of the Manning charge. The present membership is fifteen.

GRAY M. E. CHURCH.

Fray Methodist Episcopal church was organized in 1885, as a part of the Manning charge, with seven charter members, J. M. Greenlee, Mary J. Greenlee, Russell A. Steere, Alice J. Steere and three others. The church edifice, thirty-two by forty feet in size, costing one thousand five hundred

dollars, was built in 1886. The dedication sermon was preached by Rev. H. J. Everly.

Rev. I. H. Elliott was pastor from 1885 to 1887; Rev. J. S. Throckmorton, 1887 to 1888; Rev. J. W. Eckels, 1888-9; Rev. I. M. O'Flying, '89 to '91; Rev. S. O. Elliott, '94 to July, '95; Rev. W. B. Cox, July, '95, to September, '95 Rev. G. W. Wood, '95 to '98; Rev. S. T. Weaver, '98 to 1900; Rev. F. T. Stevenson, 1900 to 1901; Rev. A. A. Bennett, '01 to '04; Rev. J. N. McCurdy, '04 to '05; Rev. A. L. Golden, '05 to '08; Rev. R. E. Harvey, '08 to '10; Rev. J. A. Hosier, '10 to '11; Rev. E. B. Scoggen, '11 to '14. The present pastor is Rev. C. S. Lyles. The membership is thirty-four.

VIOLA CENTER M. E. CHURCH.

The Viola Center Methodist Episcopal church was organized in 1880 and was connected with the Dedham charge, with which it has been identified since. The church building, which was erected in 1887, is a frame structure, thirty-two by sixty feet in size. The membership is not large, on account of its proximity to other churches. The ministers who served as pastors are: Rev. J. S. Morrow, 1882; Rev. S. Milligan, 1883; Rev. J. S. Hall, 1884; Rev. D. W. Henderson, 1884; Rev. W. Stevenson, 1885; Rev. Charles Brown, 1886; Rev. F. J. Brown, 1887; Rev. R. R. C. Grantham, 1888-9; Rev. A. Adair, 1890; Rev. F. M. Carpenter, 1891; Rev. I. M. O'Flying, 1892; Rev. R. E. Harvey, 1893-4-5-6 and 7; Rev. W. L. Cox, 1898-9; Rev. J. W. Lucas, 1900; Rev. W. H. Doyle, 1901-2; Rev. A. J. Mathews, 1903-4; Rev. W. T. Rink, 1905-6; Rev. W. E. Shugg, 1907-8-9; Rev. J. H. Prall, 1909-10; Rev. E. R. Stroud, 1911-12; Rev. C. S. Lyles, 1913. The present pastor is Rev. C. W. Peer.

HAMLIN M. E. CHURCH.

We have not the data as to the first organization of the Hamlin church. However, we find that in the early seventies, it was the center from which radiated the religious influence for the north nine townships in the county, but after the building of the town of Audubon that center was transferred, and by death and removal the membership in Hamlin became so weak that services for a time were almost, if not wholly, abandoned. In 1896 the class was reorganized with the following members and connected with the Exira charge: William L. Clark and wife, James McNutt and wife, Frank White and wife, George H. Morey and wife, R. J. Fullerton and wife, Emily Godwin and Frank Godwin.

In 1898, during the pastorate of Rev. O. T. Nichols, the present church edifice, a structure twenty-eight by thirty-six feet in size, was erected, at a cost of one thousand two hundred dollars. The building committee was W. L. Clark, James McNutt and George Lafoy. Andrew Dove did the carpenter work and Lyman Kelley the mason work.

The following have served as pastors: Rev. L. H. Humphrey, O. T. Nichols, R. C. F. Chambers, J. E. Nichol, T. G. Aten, E. W. Bates, W. E. Harvey, John Harned, George A. Lawton and H. P. Grinyer, the present pastor. The present membership is about forty-five. A flourishing Sunday school is maintained under the superintendency of John H. Parnham.

GREELEY CENTER M. E. CHURCH.

The Greeley Center Methodist Episcopal church, located in section 22, Greeley township, was organized in 1886, with the following membership: John H. Reynolds, Lucy Reynolds, Fred Reynolds, Samuel W. Reynolds and Katie V. Reynolds. Services were held in the Greeley Center school house until in 1898, when the present church was built, its size being twenty-four by thirty-six feet, and cost one thousand eighty dollars. The present membership is twenty-six. A Sunday school and Epworth League are maintained a greater portion of the time.

The first pastor was Rev. Lewis Tabor, a local preacher; then followed Rev. F. B. Dunn, Rev. William Mercer, Rev. W. J. Richards, Rev. L. D. Bartley, Rev. M. T. Brown, Rev. J. F. Davis, Rev. T. G. Clark, Rev. G. E. Nichols, Rev. W. T. Rink, Rev. Elliott Voorhees, Rev. R. B. Hughes, Rev. T. G. Aten, Rev. P. A. Smith, Rev. L. D. Gager, Rev. F. C. Whitney, Rev. R. P. Roberts, Rev. Robert Swick, Rev. F. C. Taylor and the present pastor, Rev. H. T. Young. This church has always been associated with, and a part of, the North Branch circuit.

MELVILLE CENTER M. E. CHURCH.

The Melville Center class of the Methodist Episcopal church was organized in 1892 as a part of the Audubon circuit and is located in section 22, Melville township. Among the early members were James Hunt, P. J. Keith and wife and A. B. Hunt and wife. The church building, twenty-four by thirty-six feet in size, with vestibule, was erected in 1892, at a cost of one thousand two hundred dollars.

Rev. A. V. Knepper was the first pastor and was largely instrumental in the building. He was followed by Rev. W. J. Richards, Rev. T. W. Tippet, and

Rev. I. H. Elliott, Rev. Samuel Krell, Rev. C. H. Miller, Rev. O. T. Nichols, Rev. M. F. Loomis, Rev. George Weyrauch, Rev. E. W. Bates, Rev. E. H. Moore, Rev. B. Shinn and Rev. M. L. Hill.

Owing to removals and other causes, the membership became reduced to two or three members, and not being able to support a pastor, no services were held for three or four years, but a Sunday school was maintained a portion of the time, until the spring of 1914, when, largely through the influence of Rev. J. H. Freedline, then pastor at Audubon, services were renewed and since that time has been supplied by the pastor in Audubon. During the fall of 1914 a revival was held by Rev. Jackson Giddins, and accessions were received until now the membership is twenty-two, with preaching every Sunday afternoon and a flourishing Sunday school, superintended by Mrs. W. A. Hollister.

BETHEL M. E. CHURCH.

Bethel Methodist Episcopal church is located in section 5, Melville township. It was organized in 1887 by the following members, a portion of whom came from Viola church, and others who resided at too great a distance to attend any church: C. H. Sampson and wife, W. W. Weston and wife, Charles J. Johnson and wife, Otis Morey and wife, L. M. Carper and wife, D. D. Sampson and wife, H. Byrd and wife, William Wilde and wife, Mrs. Olive Beason, Ella Beason and Lewis Beason.

A Sunday school was first organized, with C. H. Sampson as superintendent; afterward a class was organized and attached to the Audubon circuit. Arrangements were made with Rev. F. M. Carpenter to supply the church until the annual conference convened in September, when Rev. William Mercer came as pastor, under whose pastorate, in 1888, a neat church building, twenty-eight by thirty-six feet in size, was erected, at a cost of one thousand five hundred dollars. The class continued as a part of the Audubon circuit until 1907, with the following pastors serving: Rev. F. B. Dunn, Rev. A. V. Knepper, Rev. W. J. Richards, Rev. T. W. Tippet, Rev. I. H. Elliott, Rev. Samuel Krell, Rev. C. H. Miller, Rev. M. F. Loomis, Rev. G. W. Weyrauch, Rev. E. W. Bates, Rev. E. H. Moore, Rev. B. Shinn, Rev. M. L. Hill.

In 1907 the class was detached from the Audubon circuit and annexed to the Dedham circuit, the following pastors serving: Rev. W. E. Shugg, two years; Rev. J. H. Prall, two years; Rev. E. R. Stroud, two years; Rev. C. S. Lyles, one year, and the present pastor, Rev. C. W. Peer. The present membership is about forty. The Sunday school has continued to do excellent

work all these years, at times the membership running up to one hundred. Since C. H. Sampson's removal, D. D. Sampson has been superintendent.

SUNNYSIDE CLASS OF THE M. E. CHURCH.

About 1891 a class of the Methodist Episcopal church was organized at Sunny Side school house, Greeley township. Some of the leading persons in its organization were David Sheets, Col. E. G. White and wife, R. H. Garnett and wife, W. C. Rice and wife and Mrs. F. M. Rice. The first pastor was Rev. L. Tabor, a local preacher, who supplied for a time. Afterward the class was attached to the Audubon circuit and the following served as pastors: Rev. A. V. Knepper, Rev. W. J. Richards, Rev. T. W. Tippet, Rev. I. H. Elliott, Rev. Samuel Krell. By removals and death, this class became so weakened that services were abandoned in 1897, those remaining taking their membership elsewhere.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUDUBON.

On July 7, 1899, at the time of the laying of the cornerstone of the new church, Rev. E. B. Cousins gave the following historical sketch of this church up to that time, which is the best obtainable:

"An encouraging prospect appearing for the organization and establishment of a Presbyterian church in the new town of Audubon, which had just become the terminus of the railroad, located centrally in Audubon county, with assuring promises of soon becoming the county seat; and with an urgent demand for such a church being manifest, on the part of a large number of the business men and citizens of the surrounding country the presbytery of Council Bluffs, at an adjourned meeting, held in Council Bluffs, November 12, 1878, appointed a committee, consisting of Rev. John Herron and Elder J. G. Cotton, both of Atlantic, to look over the field, and, if the way be clear, effect an organization at their earliest convenience.

"That committee at once proceeded to a more thorough canvass of the field during the following winter and early spring, while the young town was growing rapidly, and, after a number of services, held in the school house in town by Rev. John Herron and Rev. Ed. B. Cousins, of Clarence, Iowa, the prospect brightened, the demand on the part of the people became more urgent and the way appeared clear to effect the formal organization.

"A public meeting of the congregation was held in the school house on

Monday, April 14, 1879, at three P. M., and after a sermon by Rev. John Herron, the committee proceeded at once to the organization.

"It was found that only seven were then fully prepared to become members of the organization, five by letter and two by examination and confession of faith. Three others reported having sent for their church letters, but had not yet received them and only one of that number ever received his letter and formally united with the church. So this church was organized really with only seven members. The roll of original membership is as follows: By letter, E. C. Brown, Alex. A. Campbell and wife, Mrs. Maggie Ross, Evan Davis; by examination and confession, Robert Henderson and Mrs. Janet Griffin, and George W. Newcomer by letter, April 28, fourteen days after organization. The membership thus constituted chose the name by which the new church should be known and enrolled upon the records of presbytery as the First Presbyterian Church of Audubon. This was also the first and only Presbyterian church in Audubon county.

"E. C. Brown and A. A. Campbell were elected and ordained the first ruling elders. Capt. Charles Stuart, A. A. Campbell, E. C. Brown, Wilson Burnside, Evan Davis, Robert Henderson, John L. Dynes and George W. Newcomer were elected as a building committee, the latter five of whom were also elected as the first trustees. The newly organized church at once made a pastoral call and extended the same to Rev. Ed. B. Cousins, of Clarence, Iowa, to become its first pastor.

"The formal organization, thus completed, was reported by the committee to the presbytery in session at Walnut, Iowa, April 18, 1879. The report was approved and the church enrolled by presbytery.

"The pastoral call previously made by the church was presented to presbytery by Elder E. C. Brown. That body, according to form, placed said call in the hands of the pastor-elect, who accepted it formally, but, on due deliberation, it was thought best, both by himself and the presbytery, to delay the consummation of the pastoral union until reasonable time and opportunity were granted for pastor and people to become better acquainted. On motion, the call was returned to the church, with the suggestion that, 'In view of the youthfulness of the church, the formation of a pastoral relation be deferred until the next stated meeting of the presbytery.'

"The church then engaged the services of the pastor-elect for one year as stated supply. Services were held in the school house each alternate Sabbath until the new church could be erected and completed, which occurred about one year later. The building committee diligently prosecuted their work. The required funds were readily raised, the people generally respond-

ing liberally according to their means. Plans and specifications were procured and adopted. The contract was let so that, early in June, 1879, the building (thirty-eight by sixty feet) was raised and rapidly approaching completion when a severe wind storm leveled the entire structure to the ground. After a serious delay, however, the work was taken up again with renewed vigor and zeal and, with a force of twenty or more men, from the ruins of the old, a new structure was soon erected upon the original foundation. The work was carried along to completion at an extra cost of about four hundred dollars, and on Sabbath, January 18, 1880, the first service was held in the church. The text of the discourse was Psalms 122:1, "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord," and the appreciation of the truth of that text was greatly attested by an immense audience, both morning and evening, with congregations who appeared glad to be permitted to again attend divine service in a church building. After holding service the next Sabbath, the building was closed for inside painting and finish, until Sabbath, March 28, when it was again occupied, and after a sermon by the pastor-elect, the sacrament of the Lord's supper was observed, with a number of accessions to the church membership. Regular services were held until the day of formal dedication, May 9, when Rev. Thomas H. McClelland, D. D., of Council Bluffs, preached the dedicatory sermon. The dedicatory prayer and address were made by Rev. Ed. B. Cousins, pastor-elect, and the house was formally dedicated to the service and worship of Almighty God, free from debt. The entire cost was something over four thousand dollars, of which the presbytery board of church erection gave seven hundred dollars. The two valuable lots, each fifty by one hundred and fifty feet in size, were donated by the Chicago & Rock Island Railroad Company. The magnificent gift to this church of the premium four-hundred-dollar Mancely & Kimberly Troy bell is due to the good offices of Capt. Charles Stuart, since deceased, who not only secured the donation of one hundred dollars each from three of the prominent officers of the railroad company with free freight from Chicago, but generously footed the balance of the bill himself.

"After nearly one year's services as stated supply, a new call for the pastoral services of Rev. Edward B. Cousins was issued and forwarded to the presbytery in session at Emerson, April 16, 1880. The same was accepted by him. Rev. John Herron preached the installation sermon, Rev. S. L. McAfee charged the pastor, Rev. Thomas McClelland charged the people at installation day, May 9, 1880. On April 4, 1880, the Sabbath school was organized, with a membership of fifty, which, within one year, about doubled

itself in numbers and during two following years grew to and sustained an average membership of one hundred and twenty-five. A choice library of two hundred and sixty-four volumes was put in, at a cost of one hundred and fifty dollars.

"From its organization until the present time (July 7, 1899), a little over twenty years, only six different ministers have been engaged to serve this church for regular stated term. Of these, three have been regularly installed as pastors, and the other three served as stated supplies. The first pastorate closed on May 13, 1883, after a little more than four years' service, by Rev. E. B. Cousins. After trying the weekly supply system, on October 25, 1883, Rev. D. A. Blose was installed as pastor, and served until the spring of 1885. In May, 1885, Rev. J. H. Bartlett came as stated supply for one year and in January, 1886, left the field and presbytery. The church then remained vacant until September, 1886, when Rev. Edward Dickinson came and engaged as stated supply. He continued in that capacity for nearly ten years, an able, efficient preacher and successful laborer in the Master's vineyard, until the close of August, 1896. He was followed by Rev. Joseph Austin Cahill, who, in September, 1896, engaged as stated supply for one year and again the church was vacant. In 1897 Rev. John F. Hinkhouse began serving the church as stated supply, the engagement being for twelve or fifteen months, with a view to settlement as pastor, if the way appear clear. He came from Lenox, where his labors had been abundantly blessed, and his cordial greeting in this new field gave encouraging promise of successful work and blessed results in the Master's cause among us. That promise has been verified even in a much larger measure than could be hoped for, even by the most sanguine. During the winter of 1897-8 he secured the assistance of Evangelist Foot in conducting a series of meetings of two weeks, with blessed results, some of the precious fruits of which were the gathering into church of many by letter and by confession of faith in Christ. His ministrations, thus proving so satisfactory to the church and congregation, also accomplished another most important result of effectually bringing to a premature end the un-presbyterian stated supply system so long in vogue in this church.

"On April 3, 1898, a formal ballot was taken with a view to calling Rev. Hinkhouse to a pastorate of the church, resulting in one hundred yeas to one nay. The call, after the usual form by the presbytery, was accepted by Rev. Hinkhouse. The formal installation ceremony occurred on May 13, 1898. Under the new pastorate the work has gone forward very encouragingly for more than a year, showing in good results a steady, healthful

growth and a continued increasing interest on the part of the membership and congregation."

The old building proving to be inadequate for the needs of the congregation, a congregational meeting was held on February 15, 1899, to consider the question of building a new one. It was unanimously voted to proceed to the erection of a new edifice. A building committee was appointed, consisting of Rev. J. F. Hinkhouse, Thomas Oliver, W. Burnside, R. L. Harris, H. A. Arnold, W. H. Cowles, J. M. McKarahan and Samuel Switzer. The committee at once proceeded to the work of soliciting funds and selecting plans for a beautiful and commodious (seventy by eighty feet in size) building, which was built of frame, veneered with pressed brick, at a cost of twelve thousand dollars. This is the largest and best appointed church building in the county. It was dedicated on the 10th of December, 1899, free from debt, through the generosity of Mrs. Lois G. Stuart, who gave one dollar for each dollar subscribed, and then made up a deficiency at the end; recently this church has also received five thousand dollars, bequeathed to it by Mrs. Stuart in her will.

During the pastorate of Rev. Hinkhouse the "Sunday Meetings" were held, from which this church received a wonderful inspiration, gathering in about two hundred new members, some of whom have proven strong factors and burden bearers in the church work.

Rev. Hinkhouse remained as pastor till January 17, 1904, when he removed to Sioux City. The next pastor was Rev. Samuel Conybeare, who began his work on the first Sunday in May, 1904, and continued the work in a very acceptable manner until February 24, 1907, when he severed his connection to accept a call to Cedar Rapids. The services of Rev. D. C. McIntosh were then secured, he beginning his labors on March 31, 1907, and continuing until January 24, 1909. The next pastor was Rev. A. B. Miller, who came on April 11, 1909, and continued until September 8, 1913, when he accepted a call to Tarkio, Missouri. The next to accept the pastorate was Rev. Thomas B. Greenlee, who begun his work on January 25, 1914, and who is still pastor, doing acceptable service and under whose ministry the church still prospers.

A strong and active Ladies' Aid Society and Woman's Missionary Society have done and are still doing excellent service in carrying on the work of the church. A Christian Endeavor Society has also been no small factor in helping the young people in the Christian way, and the Sunday school, a greater portion of the time under the superintendency of Rev. E. B. Cousins, has been a power for the building up of Christian characters among the children and young people.

In 1891 this congregation purchased a two-story, eight-room house, across the street, for a parsonage, which was remodeled, a hot-air furnace put in, and other improvements made, at a total cost of about three thousand dollars. This church also organized what was known as the "Old Hamlin" Presbyterian church, a branch of this church, the membership there being members of this church. The present membership of the church is two hundred and ten.

OLD HAMLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

As a branch of the Audubon Presbyterian church, an organization was effected at Old Hamlin in 1893, J. T. Bell, D. L. Thomas and W. D. Stanley being largely instrumental in the movement, as, on account of the distance to Audubon, they were not able to attend worship regularly. In the same year a neat church, twenty-eight by thirty-six feet in size, was built, at a cost of about one thousand five hundred dollars. Services were held and also a Sunday school conducted for a number of years, the following doing pastoral work: Rev. E. Dickinson, Rev. J. A. Cahill, Rev. J. F. Hinkhouse, Rev. J. T. Ragan, Rev. W. Graham, Rev. Hamilton, Rev. Samuel Boyce, Rev. Paul Nailor, Rev. Montgomery, Rev. Coneybeare, Rev. Archie Mitchell. Since 1909 there has been no pastor and no services. The building has recently been sold and removed.

UNITED BRETHREN.

There are two United Brethren churches in the county. One is located at Gray and the other at the northeast corner of section 23, Cameron township, both comprising one circuit, with one pastor.

GRAY U. B. CHURCH.

The society at Gray was organized in 1889, with twenty-one charter members. The church edifice, erected in 1890, is twenty-eight by thirty-six feet in size, and cost approximately one thousand five hundred dollars. The present membership is fifty-one. The following have served as pastors of this church: Revs. N. F. Hicks, A. J. Patterson, J. H. Young, H. M. Potter, Rev. Wickwire, L. Nichols, J. M. Harper, J. L. Hayden, G. N. Porter, G. E. Bertch, H. G. Hicks, L. A. Fleming, H. A. Hayes, C. J. Stark, G. N. Arnold, A. H. McVey, F. M. Boyd and J. A. Mitchell, who is the present pastor.

EDEN VALLEY U. B. CHURCH.

The Eden Valley United Brtehren church is located at the northeast corner of section 23, Cameron township, and was named by T. J. Sheley. The class was organized about 1883, and among the early members were Joshua Rodgers and wife, Myrtle Rodgers, James Kilpatrick and wife, W. R. Neitzel and wife, William Ballou and wife and William Pangborn and wife. Not one of these charter members is now living. Services were held in Sands' school house until the erection of the present church building, in 1901, during the pastorate of the Rev. G. E. Bertch. The size of the building is twenty-eight by thirty-six feet, with vestibule and spire, and the cost was one thousand five hundred dollars. Sunday school is held each Sunday, followed by preaching. The present membership is about forty, and the pastor in charge is Rev. J. A. Mitchell. The list of pastors who have served the charge is the same as the Gray list, is being a part of the Gray circuit. This church is well located and occupies a splendid field for active Christian work.

AUDUBON MISSION EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION.

In 1880 Rev. J. H. Yaggy came to Audubon county and purchased a tract of land in Douglas township. Through Rev. Yaggy's influence, the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad Company donated forty acres of land adjoining his, to the Evangelical Association for church purposes. A number of families, members of the Evangelical Association, having settled near, the Audubon mission was formed, Pleasant Hill class being one point and Rev. Yaggy preaching the first sermon. Fairview class, two miles southwest of Audubon, was organized on July 2, 1882, and at the end of that year the pastor reported a membership of thirty-seven, and fifty members of the mission.

During that year services were also held at Melville Center and at Morlands school house, one mile south of Viola Center, also at Winter's school house. In 1883 Rev. J. W. Hamilton came as pastor. During that year Fairview class was moved two miles west, and the class thereafter known as the Pleasant Hill class; a new class was organized at Hamlin.

Rev. G. F. Heilman was assigned as pastor in 1884 and returned in 1885. During this year a new appointment was taken up, being the Aikman school house in Lincoln township. Rev. J. H. Yaggy, who was then presiding elder, moved to Audubon. The net gain in membership that year was

thirty-five. In 1886 Rev. C. Knoll was appointed as pastor. During that year the congregation at Viola became too large to be accommodated in the school house and plans were laid and money subscribed for a new church. In 1887 Rev. L. N. Day was assigned as pastor and served two years. The Mt. Zion church, in Viola township, was built, and dedicated on June 28, 1887, Rev. J. H. Yerger officiating, assisted by Revs. Yaggy, Knowl, Urbino and Day. Services having been held irregularly at Aikman's school house in Lincoln township, it was now taken up as a regular appointment and in 1888 a class of nine members formed. In 1888 about fourteen of the membership of the Mission moved away, a total loss of one-third of the membership, making, above the gains, a net loss of nine. In 1889, Rev. J. H. Yaggy was assigned as pastor and served two years. A new appointment, Highland Grove, seven miles south of Audubon, was taken up and a class of forty-five organized; also Lone Willow and Diggs were supplied.

In 1891 Rev. Arthur Lyttle came as pastor and two new appointments were taken up, Hamlin Center and Greeley No. 4. Excellent revivals were held this year, fifty conversions reported and a net gain in membership of twenty-three. In 1892 Rev. G. F. Heilman was pastor and Rev. A. W. Lyttle assistant. Pleasant Hill, Highland Grove, Terry and Easts were detached and formed a new mission, called Hamlin mission, both being served by the pastor and assistant. Revs. Heilman and Lyttle were again assigned to the work in 1893 and had a large increase of membership at Mt. Zion and Aikmans. New appointments, Prairie and Swaney school house, were taken up. In 1894 Rev. Heilman was again assigned as pastor. Mt. Zion was detached and Pleasant Hill added and the town of Audubon taken up as a new appointment.

BETHANY CHURCH EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION, AUDUBON.

The Audubon mission of the Evangelical Association, having long had an organization doing Christian work around Audubon, but having no organization in the town, in 1894 it was thought expedient to organize a class in town, which was done with the following charter members: Joseph Kopp, Louisa Kopp, Mrs. G. W. Hoover and J. W. Richards. A building committee, consisting of Rev. J. H. Yaggy, Rev. W. R. Astleford, J. Kopp, John Ott, Charles Evans and Rev. G. F. Heilman, was appointed and the work of building a church at once began. On September 3, of that year, a comfortable church, with a seating capacity of two hundred and costing two thousand dollars, was dedicated, free from debt.

In 1895 the charge was served by Rev. L. N. Day,, alternate Sundays; when away attending district work, R. H. Lint, G. M. Thorp, W. R. Astleford and W. C. Lang supplied. Rev. Day was returned for the years 1896 and 1897, with Rev. M. J. Conner as assistant. During this year a comfortable parsonage was erected, adjoining the church, and made ready for occupancy by Rev. G. L. Wilson, who served as pastor for the station in 1898. In 1899 Rev. L. J. U. Smay served as pastor, when Mt. Zion was again attached to the charge. In 1900 Rev. M. J. Conner came as pastor and good revivals were held at Audubon, Fairview and Pleasant Hill.

In 1901 Rev. Conner, having been returned, a good-sized front was built to the parsonage, the old one forming a dining room and kitchen. In 1902, also in 1903, Rev. Conner was returned. In the latter year Fairview, in Douglas township, was discontinued and Champion Hill added. Rev. C. D. Wendel came as pastor in 1905 and served until 1907. In 1908 Rev. C. H. Schlesselman was assigned and served during 1909 and 1910. Rev. J. C. Schwab was pastor in 1911-1912 and 1913. In 1914 Rev. Clinton F. Smith was assigned and is the present pastor. He also serves the church at Ross, the two constituting the Audubon circuit.

The present membership is sixty-five and the church is stronger today than ever before, both in ability as workers and financially. A good Sunday school and a strong Young People's Society are supported. Mrs. Lois G. Stuart remembered this church in her will to the amount of one thousand dollars.

FRIEDMANS EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF ROSS.

Friedmans Evangelical church, at Ross, was organized in March, 1900, with the following charter members: Rev. A. Raecker, Chris Bauer, William Weiderstein, John Nakies, John Koenig, Charles Heuss, William Deist, William Lhrenkransz, Christ Mack and Egbert Drussel. They erected a church edifice the same year, with a seating capacity of one hundred and fifty, at a cost of one thousand five hundred dollars. The present membership is fifty.

Those who have served as pastors are: 1899-1900, A. Roecker; 1901-1903, H. J. Faust; 1904-1906, M. J. Knolls; 1907-1908, E. C. Granner; 1909-1910, R. J. Simon; 1911-1914, O. Mehnert. The present pastor is Rev. Clinton F. Smith. The services are held in the German language, excepting that every two weeks, at night, the Rev. C. L. Fuller, from Mt. Zion, preaches in English language.

MT. ZION EVANGELICAL CHURCH.

Mt. Zion Evangelical church, located in section 27, Viola township, was organized in school house No. 8, in the year 1883. The leading members in organizing were William Morland, Nels Olsen, James Yeager, Jesse Snively and Harve Gipple. The church building, a frame structure, thirty-two by forty-four feet in size, was erected, with a vestibule eight by fourteen and spire twenty-three feet high, in 1887, at a cost of two thousand dollars.

The pastors who have served this church are the Revs. Knoll, Day, Heiliman, Astleford, Throp, Plummer, Buttman, Lehman, J. H. Yaggy, Fickinger, O. M. Yaggy, C. D. Wendel, H. Alber, M. O. Mehnert and the present pastor, Rev. C. L. Fuller. The present membership is forty-one. The church has a good parsonage property adjoining the church.

FAIRVIEW CLASS, EVANGELICAL CHURCH.

Fairview class of the Evangelical church is located in the school house in district No. 4, Greeley township. Having no church building, they worship in the school house. The class was organized in 1891, with a membership of ten, and the present membership is fourteen. A large portion of the time this class has been identified with the Evangelical church in Audubon, but a portion of the time it has been connected with Mt. Zion, as at present.

Rev. J. H. Yaggy was instrumental in organizing the class and was its first pastor; then followed Rev. Astleford, Rev. M. J. Connor, Rev. J. Wirth, Rev. George Heileman, Rev. O. M. Yaggy, Rev. C. D. Wendel, Rev. C. H. Schlesselman, Rev. J. C. Schwab and the present pastor, Rev. C. L. Fuller.

HAMLIN EVANGELICAL CHURCH.

A class of the Evangelical church was organized at Hamlin Station about 1891 and a church building erected. Some of the charter members were Robert Campbell and wife, D. Brandstatter and wife, H. Young and wife and J. Skinner and wife. This church never had a large membership, and their ranks were so depleted by removals that it was found difficult to keep up the organization; consequently, it was decided to sell the building and disband the organization, which was accordingly done. The building was sold to the Danish Lutherans in 1906, who have since occupied it and have a flourishing membership.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH, EXIRA.

About 1861 Elder C. P. Evans preached several times in the school house at Audubon City, near Hamlin Grove, in Exira township. His efforts were rewarded by the conversion of Hanna M. Hamlin, Malinda C. Hamlin, John Wilcox and Joseph Wilcox, who were then baptized in Troublesome creek. Elder Evans is still preaching at Arapahoe, Nebraska, at the age of eighty-seven years. Benjamin F. Thomas settled at Hamlin Grove, February 20, 1864, and preached occasionally in Exira and vicinity until 1868, when he went to Missouri. James Wilson settled near Exira in 1865 and preached there several years. In 1866-7 Elder J. C. White, from Adel, Iowa, preached several times in Exira, and in April, 1867, he baptized twenty-two converts and formed a temporary church organization in Exira. The meetings were held in the old school house.

In 1876 a permanent organization was effected, with twenty-two members, and Elder J. M. Crocker became the first regular pastor. Melvin Nichols also preached there occasionally. In 1877 a church edifice was erected, thirty-eight by fifty-four feet in size, at a cost of one thousand four hundred dollars. Elders Crocker and Nichols contributed their personal labors to the enterprise. This building was destroyed by fire in June, 1910, and a more pretentious and modern building was erected the same year upon the same ground. The present membership is about one hundred.

There have been as elders, Joseph Clure, William R. Botts, James P. Lair, W. C. Mitchell, Charles W. Johnson, Joseph H. Bell, Fred Anderson, Oscar Hunt; deacons, Joseph H. Bell, Jesse E. Miller, Burt Anderson, Charles Clure, Samuel D. Ham, Charles McCord, Nels H. Johnson, Okey Hendrickson, George Milliman, W. W. Hammer, John Stoner, Ola Christensen, Roxy Huyck, N. P. Christensen, Charles E. Hawk, John Porter, Hans Nelson, George Gore, Hugh Smith, P. Frederick, Elmer Heath, P. I. Whitted; pastors, James Wilson, J. M. Crocker, G. W. Hamilton, J. A. Walten, Charles A. Lockhart, J. C. McQuarry, L. H. Humphreys, E. C. Whittaker, G. E. Nichols, H. A. Pallister, C. A. Poulson, T. A. Manley, S. M. Smith, Charles S. Linkletter.

CHURCH OF CHRIST.

The Church of Christ, at Audubon, was organized in 1894 by the following charter members: Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Aldrich, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Beason, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Burrows, Mrs. T. V. Belles, Mrs. Rachel Cole, Mr. and Mrs. John Dawson, Mr. and Mrs. C. Gates, Mr. and Mrs. J. C.

Keith, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Ellis. The church edifice, forty-six by forty-eight feet in size, was erected in 1900, at a cost of five thousand dollars. The membership at present is about forty.

These have served as pastors: Elders C. A. Lockhart, W. B. Clemens, R. V. Leeson, J. H. McSparran, A. A. Holmes, H. C. Littleton, W. H. McCormick, H. Wilson, I. E. Carney, P. J. Pond, Frank Maples, C. A. Vonnay, J. J. Ruppert, F. E. Glendenning, William P. Hauser.

A Young People's Society and a flourishing Sunday school are maintained. Carl Neilsen is the present superintendent. The following have been elders: J. C. Keith, W. H. Aldrich, T. H. Beason and C. Gates; deacons, J. W. Landerman, Carl Neilsen, James Hollenbeck and James Gray. Mrs. D. C. Ross is president of the Ladies' Aid Society; Miss Mabel Keith is clerk.

Rev. D. W. Bryant, from Iuka, Illinois, has recently taken charge of the church as pastor, and now devotes half his time to this pastorate and the other half to Manning.

Mrs. Lois G. Stuart also bequeathed this church one thousand dollars.

FISCUS CHURCH OF CHRIST.

The Church of Christ, at Spring Valley—later known as the Fiscus Church of Christ—was organized, February 5, 1882. The charter membership was composed mostly of families formerly from Indiana, who were the first settlers of that neighborhood. Their names were, Adam Cain Fiscus, who was the first, and continued as their preacher for a number of years; Wilson Fiscus and wife, Emma Fiscus, Albert Fiscus and wife, Eliza; Isaac Fiscus and wife, Melissa; Elias Fiscus and wife, Harriet; Levy Fiscus; Sarah J. Fiscus; Adeline Fiscus; Mrs. Martha Somerlot; Mrs. Ruth Duling; Mrs. Paulina Wiley; Mrs. Eliza J. Rinehart; Mrs. Elizabeth Spear; J. F. Conrad; Henry Hauser; Nelson Hon and wife, Mary; E. J. Arney and wife, Lucinda; Hannah Hilsabeck; Mrs. Ann M. Speas; Jesse Hon and wife, Matilda, and Mrs. Mary Mitten. A number of these people had formerly been members of the old Bethel Church of Christ, in Owen county, Indiana, and others had been members of the Bethel Grove church, of Marshall county, Iowa. The elders were A. C. Fiscus, Wilson Fiscus and Elias Fiscus; deacons, E. J. Arney and Albert Fiscus.

Other members were added from time to time, until a large congregation was built up, with a good Sunday school, and regular preaching services were held for a number of years. This was the only organized Church of

Christ in that part of the county, and its membership finally included almost the entire community, people coming a long distance in their farm wagons to attend these services. Protracted meetings were held from time to time, when great crowds would fill the school house at night to overflow. All the spring-seats from the wagons would be carried in to seat the women and children, the men standing in the doorway and at the open windows, eager to hear the preached word. All-day basket-meetings were often held at some grove near by (a church building was never erected), and always drew large crowds of people, who were welcome and well fed, for the friendship and hospitality of the people was unlimited and their faithfulness and loyalty never questioned.

Brother A. C. Fiscus served this congregation for a number of years as pastor and, as the membership were of rather limited means he depended largely upon his farm for support of himself and family. Later, came Brother W. N. Littell, who served for some time, and who also started the first store and the postoffice at Fiscus. Then came Brother Tibbitts, of Botna, Iowa, followed by Brother D. H. Reagan, of Indiana, and Brother F. A. Sheets, of Manning, who was followed by Brother C. A. Lockhart, of Exira.

During all these years, death called the members one by one, to cease their labors and answer the call to the Great Beyond, and, like other country churches, there was great loss by removals. Thus the membership of what was once a prosperous church gradually weakened until it was difficult for the few struggling members to keep the work going, so that all efforts finally ceased, and the organization was abandoned.

Of the charter members, there are but four now living, and only three now reside in Audubon county. Elias Fiscus, one of them, also one of the elders, now has his home with his daughter, Mrs. Speas, in Lincoln township, who kindly furnished many of the facts for this little history of this church and who knows the history of the county almost from the beginning, he being one of the first settlers in that part of the county; also, Mrs. Ruth Duling (now Mrs. Hilsabeck) still lives in Douglass township, and Mrs. Eliza Rinhart, who lives in Audubon.

Those of this congregation who still survive and have found homes elsewhere, no doubt still remember the joys and sorrows and the struggles of the organization that sprang up, bore its fruit, brought souls into the kingdom, nurtured the children into manhood and womanhood, saw lover and sweetheart made one, saw father and mother pass to the Great Beyond, held friends and neighbors together in love and friendship, made the com-

munity better for its influence, and finally, after having lived its life, to slowly fade away and pass into history. But the great good that it accomplished and the influence that it shed abroad in the world, eternity alone can tell.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (GERMAN).

On August 1, 1875, a few German Lutheran families residing in Audubon township, Audubon county, and in Grant township, Guthrie county, met for the purpose of organizing a Lutheran congregation. Those participating and who became charter members were Henry Nesack, who, at the age of eighty-four, is still (1915) an active member and the only charter member remaining a member of the congregation; George Faga, now in Chicago; John Mueller, now in Adair, Iowa; Henry Gerboldt, Fred Fienen, and the late Henry Faga.

A constitution was adopted and the little band organized for effective Christian work. No meeting was held until the spring of 1876, when the congregation was increased by the addition of six new members, and from that time on the congregation continued a steady and healthy growth, the present membership being eighty-five, a majority of whom are heads of families.

Rev. John Horn, at that time of Dexter, Iowa, was secured as the first pastor of this little flock. Services were held every four weeks in the public school houses, or in the homes of the members. In 1880 Rev. Fred Ehlers, a young man and a graduate of one of the Lutheran colleges, was called to take charge of the congregation. He accepted and proved to be such an energetic and faithful worker that in a short time the congregation grew to such proportions that the school houses would not accommodate it. In 1884, at a special meeting called to consider the matter, it was decided to erect a church edifice. Accordingly, plans were laid and a site selected, being the one where the church now stands, on the east side of the public highway between Audubon and Guthrie counties, in Grant township, Guthrie county. A church, thirty-six by fifty feet in size, was erected that year and has been in continuous use since. A few years later the congregation built a school house adjacent to the church, where both English and German languages are taught.

After ten years of faithful and successful service, Rev. Ehlers was called to another field of labor and was succeeded by Rev. O. Clocter, who, for nineteen years, continued to minister to the flock, sharing its joys and sorrows, and adding many new members during his pastorate. In 1905 the

congregation built a fine parsonage on a site on the west side of the public highway, in Audubon township.

Five years later, Rev. Clocter accepted a call to Minnesota and Rev. A. H. Deletzke, the present pastor of the congregation, who at that time held a charge in Ft. Dodge, was called, and has very successfully continued his ministrations up to the present time. About two-thirds of the membership of this congregation live in Audubon county, principally in Audubon township, the remaining members living in Guthrie county. The present value of the church property, including the parsonage and school, is about ten thousand dollars. Regular services are held in the English and German languages.

AUDUBON TOWNSHIP CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

A Sunday school was organized in school district No. 2 about 1899, which was changed to district No. 3. About 1903-5 a church society was organized, consisting of Mrs. F. W. Hocamp, Mrs. Alonzo F. Littlefield, Mr. and Mrs. John Porter, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Baker, Mrs. William Van Aernam. A large church edifice was then erected in the northeast corner of section 8. The pastors were supplied from Exira and were the same as at that place, Rev. E. C. Whittaker being the first. It never had a resident pastor. Most of the members have removed and regular services are no longer maintained. The present membership is about six.

GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN TRINITY CHURCH, LINCOLN TOWNSHIP.

During the years 1870 to 1879 a number of German Lutheran families having settled in Douglas, LeRoy and Cameron townships, but more in Lincoln township, they were spiritually advised by Lutheran ministers who happened in this vicinity. The first Lutheran minister who regularly attended these widely scattered Lutheran people was Rev. F. J. Oehlert, of Walnut, Iowa, who, from April, 1879, to March, 1880, held regular services, administered the communion and baptized their children.

On January 2, 1881, under the supervision of Rev. W. Mallon, missionary of the German Evangelical Lutheran Missouri synod, these people organized the Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church of Lincoln township. This congregation has, through all these thirty-four years of its existence, stood devoutly in practice as well as in theory, for the true Lutheran doctrine, as contained in the Bible and preached by Dr. Martin Luther and his followers. The congregation is a member of the well-known Evangelical Lutheran synod of Missouri, Ohio, and other States, consisting of 2,978 organized and 1,127 unorganized congregations, a total of 4,105, with 2,535 ministers and professors.

The first board of trustees and elders elected were, Aug Polzin, Hum Polzin, John Polzin, Hy Borkowski, Alb Polzin, Kienst Sen, George Baldsen and George Schroeder. Subsequent to the work of Revs. Oehlert and Mallon, the congregation called, at intervals, Rev. Fred Ehlers, of Adair, Iowa, on June 20, 1881; Rev. Jul Dickman, of Atlantic, Iowa, on August 13, 1882, then, after a vacancy of four months, Rev. Anthon Ehlers, of Ellingwood, Kansas, on December 26, 1886. He served the congregation with great faithfulness and satisfaction for a period of nearly nineteen years, finally resigning on account of nervous prostration. Rev. J. P. Guenther, of Boone, Iowa, was then called and served for six and a half years, when, in the latter part of 1912, the present pastor, Rev. E. J. W. Starck, was called.

The membership of this congregation underwent the trials and hardships incident to the early settlers of the county, but, true to their aim to serve in this their adopted country, not only their families, but also their country as good and law-abiding citizens and Christians, they strove with all their power to uphold, build up, enlarge and strengthen their church for their own eternal blessing. So, on January 20, 1884, they began building, on section 27, Lincoln township, their first church edifice, a structure thirty by fifty feet in size, which was dedicated on July 6, 1884. This building was twice damaged by storm. The congregation, having outgrown this building, it was turned into a school house and, on the 2nd day of June, 1901, it was replaced by a larger and more costly church edifice, thirty-six by seventy-two feet in size, with a spire ninety-two feet high. The cost of the first building was eight hundred dollars and the new one about five thousand dollars.

This church, after being in use twelve years, was razed to the foundation and totally destroyed by the tornado that laid Omaha in ruins, on Easter day, March 23, 1913, nothing but a glass picture and the bell being unbroken. But, with a large faith in God, this people again went to work with a will and, Phoenix-like, there arose from the ruins another beautiful edifice, and on the 26th of October, 1913, a grand dedication of the new church took place. It is a more costly structure, costing nine thousand dollars, with inclined floor and very finely decorated, and equipped with furniture to the amount of two thousand dollars.

In 1884 a well-appointed parsonage consisting of nine rooms and hall was built near by on section 22.

The regularly attended school of the congregation is taught by the pastor from September till June of each year, excepting one month allowed for cornpicking. The attendance the past year was forty-seven scholars. With

the number of four hundred and fifty souls, there are about two hundred members and the voting members number thirty-six. Under the supervision of the Rev. E. J. W. Starck, the elders are Ludw Borkowski and William Berg; the board of trustees are Aug. Brown, Alb Rudwick and Aug. Kienast; cashier, G. F. Borkowski; secretary, Otto Rudnick; chairman, Louis Grotekeschen. A number of the members of this congregation having residence in Audubon, services are held there every two weeks on Sunday afternoon, in the Danish church. All worship is conducted in the German language. In the school, both English and German are taught.

GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH.

The Evangelical Lutheran Friedens church of the German Evangelical synod of North America is located in Audubon, having been organized in 1891. Among the active and leading members in pushing the organization and building were Christ Hahn and Conrad Burkhardt. The church edifice, which was erected in 1891, is fifty by twenty-eight feet in size, and cost two thousand five hundred dollars. The present membership is ten. The following here served as pastors; Reverend Strange, Reverend Herman, Reverend Rounthal, Reverend Dollman, Reverend Seck, Reverend Jansen, Reverend Braun and the present pastor, Reverend Gust Tillmanses. Services are held irregularly.

DANISH LUTHERAN CHURCH, AUDUBON.

The Danish Evangelical Lutheran church, of Audubon, was organized, February 9, 1909, under the leadership of Rev. G. B. Christiansen, R. D. However, the church work among the Danish people in Audubon was begun about 1884. As most all of the Danes belong to the Lutheran church in Denmark and wished to continue the same relationship, the work was taken up among them, not by the mother church in Denmark, but by men whom God called to the ministry in this country, and who gladly took hold of the work among their countrymen in the United States.

Rev. Mr. Auker, now (1914) located at Lincoln, Nebraska, was the first who held a Lutheran meeting in the Danish language in Audubon. He came here in 1884 from Elk Horn, Iowa, where he, at that time and for about thirty years, was located. He served the people for about two years.

From 1886 to 1888, Rev. C. Falck, now (1914) located in Jewell, Iowa, but who at that time held a charge in Oak Hill, came here and held services

once each month. After some interruption in the services, Rev. A. C. Weismann, from Jacksonville, Iowa, came and held services from 1894 till 1902. Following him came Rev. Brede Johnson, from Buthana, Iowa, who served two and one-half years. In 1905 Rev. G. B. Christiansen, from Ebenezer, took up the work and continued to preach here until 1909. During the years prior to 1909, the church had no building of its own, but held services in the Evangelical church a large part of the time. Now it became more thoroughly organized with a membership of about one hundred and, opportunity presenting itself, bought the Baptist church, at a cost of three thousand dollars. The church has a seating capacity of four hundred. At the same time, the congregation bought a house located next to the church on the north, to be used as a parsonage. This house was rebuilt and modernized in 1914, so that now the church owns a splendid property, including a fine home for the pastor. In November, 1908, Rev. J. P. Christiansen, then in Lincoln, Nebraska, accepted a call here and, with his family, came here May 14, 1909, and has continued the work since.

The present membership is two hundred and seven. The Sunday school has ten teachers, with sixty-five children. The Young People's Society was organized, December 9, 1909, with twenty-eight members. The present membership is seventy-two. The Ladies Aid Society, which was organized some years ago, number forty-five. All of the services are conducted in the Danish language and, as one-fourth of the population of Audubon is Danish, there is a great field for work.

EBENEZER DANISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.

The Ebenezer Danish Evangelical Lutheran church, which is located in Douglas township, was organized in 1895, the following persons uniting in the organization: Nels C. N. Schmidt and wife, Peter N. Schmidt and wife, Ham N. Schmidt and wife, Ham Nelson and wife, Peter Andersen and wife and Nels Andersen.

In 1896 a church edifice, twenty-six by forty feet in size, was erected, at a cost of one thousand five hundred dollars. In 1908 the growth of the congregation compelled the providing of more room and an addition and improvements were made at a cost of two thousand dollars, the present church being twenty-six by fifty-two feet in size. In 1904 a fine parsonage was built adjoining the church, at a cost of two thousand five hundred dollars. Rev. A. C. Weismann was the first pastor, continuing until about 1905, when Rev. G. B. Christiansen became pastor and remained with the church, giving excellent service.

Reverend Christiansen is president of the Danish Evangelical church in America, his work occasionally calling him to the Atlantic or Pacific coast. A good Sunday school, with a membership of about forty, is maintained, also a Young People's Society. The present membership of the church is thirty-two families and over one hundred and fifty members.

OTHER DANISH CHURCHES.

The Danish Evangelical Lutheran church of Exira was organized on May 19, 1905, and in 1907 erected a substantial church edifice, at a cost of three thousand five hundred dollars. This is a flourishing society, with a membership of ninety-eight. Those who have served as pastors are Revs. Thomas Jersild, James K. Jensen, Jens P. Christensen and Peter Rasmussen, the present pastor.

The Danish Evangelical Lutheran church of Hamlin was organized in 1904 and in 1906 bought its church edifice from the Evangelical church. The value of its building is one thousand five hundred dollars. The present membership is one hundred and fifty-two. The following have served as pastors: Reverends Johnson, James K. Jensen, Jens P. Christensen and Peter Rasmussen, the present pastor.

Immanuel church of the Danish Evangelical church of America, located at Kimballton, was organized in 1897. The church edifice, which has a seating capacity of four hundred, was erected in 1904, at a cost of seven thousand five hundred dollars. The membership of this church is one hundred, and the church being located in the very heart of the Danish settlement, is favorably situated for doing a large amount of good. The following have served as pastors: Revs. C. Sorensen, J. M. Gregerson and J. Jorgensen, who is the present pastor.

DANISH LUTHERAN CHURCHES.

Bethany Danish Evangelical Lutheran congregation was organized in 1890. During the same year five acres of land, located on a beautiful hill two and a half miles northeast of Kimballton, on section 16, Sharon township, were purchased and a church, thirty-two by forty feet, costing one thousand five hundred dollars was built on this land. This church stood only eight years, when it was destroyed by fire caused by its being struck by lightning. Neither discouraged nor down-hearted, the congregation immediately set to work, contributed liberally of their means, and had a new church edifice built upon the same site in the fall of the same year—1898.

The next year, 1899, a comfortable and convenient six-room parsonage was built. The church is located on one side of a public highway and the parsonage is on the other side. The cemetery adjoins the church grounds.

At the beginning of this congregation, there was no church in Kimballton, so that a number from that place belonged to Bethany church. Later, when a church was built in Kimballton, these withdrew, but, notwithstanding their leaving, this congregation has made steady progress and today numbers fifty-four families, comprising three hundred souls.

Rev. Christian Auker, Rev. P. S. Vig, Rev. Frimodt Moller, Rev. N. P. Simonson, Rev. Buda Johansen and Rev. Christian Hansen have served as pastors of this church, Rev. H. L. Jensen being the present pastor. This church is splendidly located for doing a great work among the Danish people.

Oak Hill Danish Lutheran church in America is located on section 21, Oakfield township. It was organized about 1895 by a number of Danish families who had settled west of Brayton. From the first, this has been a flourishing congregation. The church edifice, which is twenty-four by forty-eight feet in size, was erected at a cost of two thousand dollars. Among those who have served as pastors are, Rev. Skovgaard, November, 1890, to November, 1893; Reverend Gravengaard, 1894; Rev. N. P. Hold, May, 1900, to June, 1903; Reverend Jensen, 1903 to 1907; Reverend Jorgensen, 1908-9; Rev. H. E. Raven, 1910-13. The present pastor is Rev. H. C. Strandskoo, who has a catechetical class of thirty-six children. The pastor of this church also serves St. Johannes church in the northeast part of Oakfield township. The two churches pay a salary of seven hundred and fifty dollars per year and the free use and occupation of the parsonage and eight acres of land. The present membership is fifty families or two hundred members.

St. Johannes Danish Lutheran church of the Danish Lutheran church in America is located near the northeast corner of Oakfield township and was organized about 1905. This church is affiliated with the Oak Hill Danish church and is served by the same pastor, Rev. H. C. Strandskoo being the present minister. The church, which was built in 1905 and is twenty-eight by fifty feet in size, cost two thousand dollars. The congregation consists of about fifty families, or two hundred souls and is in a flourishing condition.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCHES.

In the winter of 1885-86, Elder O. A. Olson came to the small settlement of Danes living in Indian Creek valley, and began a series of religious meetings. These were the first religious meetings held in this neighborhood. There were but a few families living there and they were somewhat scattered

but an interest was soon awakened, the meetings being held in the small and humble homes of the people. Success attended the labors of Elder Olson, and a large portion of the community accepted his teachings. On March 17, 1886, at the home of Peter Axelson, in Sharon township, the first church of Seventh-Day Adventists in Audubon county was organized with a membership of twenty-three. About the same time occurred the first baptism in Indian Creek.

Only four of the original members are now living in this vicinity, a number having passed away and others having found homes elsewhere. During 1886 seven more joined the church and, early in 1887, another seven joined, making thirty-seven members at the end of the first year. During this year (1887) this church was received into the Iowa conference of Seventh-Day Adventist. The first officers were, elder, John H. Johnson; deacon and treasurer, Nels J. Boose; secretary, Peter Axelson. These have all passed away. Jens Sorensen was the next elder. Many years of his life were given to the work, and, by his labors, example and influence, he did much to build up this church. For four years after the organization, services were held in the Stanley school house, but, in the spring of 1890, the first Seventh-Day Adventist church in the county was built, on section 36, Sharon township, at a cost of eight hundred dollars. Although the members were poor, the church was dedicated free from debt. Since that time, J. M. Peterson, Chris Juhl and H. C. Peterson have served as elders. The church has steadily grown in numbers and now there is a membership of seventy-four.

In 1909 an addition was built to the church, to be used for school purposes, at a cost of one thousand two hundred dollars. This school is supported by the church and in it the children are educated in hand, mind and heart, the Bible being a part of their daily studies. The enrollment the first year was about thirty. After two years of successful work, two years were added to the eighth grades, making ten years in all. Miss Anna Johnson was the first teacher. Then Miss Marion Johnson was selected to take charge of the advanced work. Following the retirement of Miss Anna Johnson from school life, Miss Iva Dike filled the vacancy. In 1913-14 Miss Jennie Nelson assisted Miss Marion Johnson and, this year, Miss Della Jensen is teaching the lower grades. The earnest, faithful and efficient efforts of these God-fearing girls have greatly assisted the young people of this church in avoiding many of the evils existing today; not one of the young men is addicted to the habit of tobacco or liquor. Thirteen have graduated from this school, having passed the examination given by the county, and three more will receive the eighth grade diploma this spring.

Thousands of dollars have been raised by this church in tithes and offerings for the support of missionary work in this country, and in China, Africa, India and in other mission fields abroad. In 1914 the sum of three thousand seven hundred ninety-three dollars and fifteen cents was paid in tithes and offerings for foreign fields, besides maintaining the expense of both church and school. Several hundred dollars have been given for churches and schools located elsewhere. The officers of this church for 1915 are: Elder, A. P. Hansen; deacon, Henry Andersen; treasurer, Lawrence Axelson; secretary, P. C. Knudson. These men have held these offices a number of years.

One young lady, Miss Rose Boose, has been sent from this church as a foreign missionary, and is now laboring in India. Others of the young people of the church are in training for like service. The work of this church is surely equalled by few and, we are inclined to believe, surpassed by none, taking into consideration size of membership and opportunity.

If each organized church in the county would do a proportionate amount of good, according to their ability, what a mighty force for righteousness our churches would be.

The East Exira Seventh-Day Adventist church was organized in a school house, about nine miles east of Exira, on April 21, 1900, by Elders E. G. Olson and William Johnson. There were eight charter members, as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Chris Juhl, Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Bascom, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Berthelsen and Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Jensen. Chris Juhl was elected as the first elder, which position he filled for a number of years until he moved to Stuart. Since then J. W. Jensen has served as elder. The meetings were held in various school houses at different times until February, 1913, at which time the Christian Science people of Exira kindly consented to rent their church to the Seventh-Day Adventists for Sabbath services, and whenever not in use. Meetings were held here for one year. Then the congregation became too large for the little church and a larger building was needed. The Congregational people then kindly consented to lease their church for services, when not needed by themselves, and the East Exira Seventh-Day Adventists church now meets regularly there. There are forty members in the organized church and about sixty in the Sabbath school.

The Seventh-Day Adventist church in Audubon was organized on May 15, 1887, by Elder J. W. Wiloby and Ira Hankins, the following being enrolled as charter members: Mrs. R. G. Ping, Mrs. J. N. Brockway, Mrs. George Keene, Mrs. F. Trude, H. Johnson and wife and Mr. Martin and his mother. The first meetings were held in the school house, until 1889,

where the present church was built, being in size twenty-four by thirty-six feet and costing one thousand dollars. The present membership of the church is fifteen. The church has not maintained a regular pastor, but the following have served: Rev. J. W. Wiloby, Rev. Ira Hankins, Rev. E. G. Olson, Reverend Starr. E. G. Olson, W. A. Frederickson and Chris Juhl have served as elders. A sabbath school has been maintained regularly, Mrs. Rose Brockway being superintendent. Mrs. Alice Esbeck is secretary of the church.

BAPTISTS.

The First Baptist church of Audubon was organized on April 1, 1881, at a meeting presided over by Rev. D. D. Proper. The charter members were E. F. Fales, Mrs. C. A. Fales, H. M. Talbot, Mrs. M. Scott, Mrs. E. J. Ford, Mrs. V. Sands, Mrs. S. Davis, Rev. H. F. Sharpmack and wife, F. M. Van Pelt, Mrs. Mary J. Van Pelt, Mrs. Elnora Howald, V. Sands, Isabel Harris and Mrs. E. M. Funk. The first deacons were E. F. Fales and F. M. Van Pelt; the first clerk and treasurer was H. M. Talbot. Rev. A. F. Sharpnack was engaged to preach once in two weeks for the first year. The first covenant meeting was held on April 27, 1881. The church did not advance rapidly. Some removed, while others seemed for a time to slacken their former zeal for the cause they had once espoused. Hence, the society has but little history to record until October, 1887, when it was reorganized, embracing some few of the remaining charter members. In September, 1888, plans were matured for the erection of a church. Lots were purchased of the railroad company, directly opposite the court house. During the winter of 1888-9 a good-sized edifice was erected at a cost of three thousand dollars. Rev. A. C. Zollhoffer was pastor when the plans for the building were made, but, in October, 1888, he resigned. He was succeeded by Rev. Richmond A. Smith, under whose pastoral labors the work prospered for a time. The church was completed and dedicated. After Reverend Smith, came Rev. Mr. Parsons. A number of active and influential members moved away, the services finally ceased and, after some years in 1909, the church was bought by the Danish Lutheran, who still own and occupy it. After the discontinuance of the services, some of the remaining members joined the Christian church, some the Methodist and others the Evangelical church.

OAKFIELD DANISH BAPTIST CHURCHES.

The Danish Baptist church in Oakfield township belongs to the Danish Baptist denomination, or church, affiliated with the Danish Baptist general

conference and the various connections of the Baptist denomination of America and the world. It is located five miles west and two miles north of Brayton, section 5, Oakfield township. It was organized in 1888, with twenty-four charter members. Among the old members yet belonging to the church are Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Kragelund, Mr. and Mrs. Jens Christensen, Messrs. O. H. Jacobson, Nels Hansen, Chris Jorgensen and others. The church grew for some years, had large congregations and exerted a good influence. Later, some of the members moved away and others live at some distance from the church, necessitating the taking up of an outstation, eight miles southeast, in Cass county, where many attend the meetings. The present membership is fifty-five. The church edifice was erected in 1893, its seating capacity being about three hundred.

One quarter of a mile west of the church the parsonage, a six-room house, with barn and other buildings, and five acres of land, is located. The value of the property is about three thousand five hundred dollars and is free from debt.

The pastors who have served are Revs. F. M. Andersen, C. Pedersen, C. L. A. Christensen, A. P. Nielsen, C. Andersen and the present pastor, Rev. P. C. Larsen, who serves the church, together with an American church in Shelby county. Besides these pastors, other men who have done good work are Revs. A. C. Nasby, F. Olsen, H. A. Richenbach, M. A. Wesgaard, C. H. Bobirg and M. U. Sorensen. The present pastor has been on the field about two years, coming from Cuppy Grove Baptist church in Shelby county. He uses the English language in his services, not only in the American church, but also in his two out-stations. He has held rural pastorates in Iowa for the past thirteen years; is vice-president of the Danish conference; a member of the Iowa Baptist board and of the Baptist state commission.

The majority of the Oakfield church members are quiet, devoted, industrious people, who are some of the best citizens of the community, and, as this church is located in a good field, it is undoubtedly doing a good work for the saving of souls.

The Union Baptist church of Greeley township, located on section 23, was organized in 1882 by the following charter members: Rev. and Mrs. Charles Berry, S. S. Berry, Hugh McClaren and wife, Henry Mapes and wife, Adolphus Burt, Mrs. Harriet Burt, Mrs. Hannah Cox, Mrs. Margaret Huston, Henry Snowgoose and Maggie McClaren, thirteen in all. For several years, meetings were held in the school house, but in 1891 the present church, a comfortable frame building, was erected, at a cost of two thousand dollars. The following have served as pastors: Revs. A. F. Sharp-

nack, Charles Berry, Reverend and Mrs. Mackey, F. Reed, D. D. Downs, George Hickok, C. V. Bentley, Charles Sloan, H. H. Cross, L. L. Smith and Eli Loney, who is the present pastor. The present membership is forty-one. A very interesting Sunday school is maintained. Also a Baptist Young Peoples Mission, with a good membership, is in a flourishing condition.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BRAYTON.

By reference to the history of the Oakfield Methodist Episcopal class, it will be seen that religious services were held in Oakfield as early as 1856-7, and also by referring to the Oakfield Congregational church, it will be observed that about 1866-8 the congregationalists organized there, and later the Evangelicals also, held services there. These services were held in the school house, where a Sunday school had been maintained during all these years. The successful continuation of these services and the Sunday school during many years can be credited to the untiring effort of Prof. H. G. Smith and family and J. M. Hill and family, both of whom have passed to their reward. It was reserved for the Baptists to erect the first church edifice and to organize the first denominational church in Brayton. That the Baptists should have secured a footing there is, perhaps, due to the efforts of one man, A. T. Horton, familiarly known as "Uncle Ace," more than any other one. In the spring of 1880 he with his family, removed from Marion county, Iowa, and settled about two miles northwest of Brayton. He was at this time fifty-eight years of age, but "Uncle Ace" had always been a Baptist and could not be anything else. No sooner had he become established in his new home, than he began efforts to secure religious services in the school house nearest his home and, although there was no formal church organization, religious services were conducted there more or less frequently by the Baptists for a number of years. These efforts, with the assistance and cooperation of others heretofore mentioned, crystalized the religious sentiment of the community and rendered it possible to cement it together in one organization. In the winter of 1893 three Baptist ministers, Reverend Downs, Reverend Hickock and Rev. Harry Ferguson, conducted revival services in the old hall at Oakfield. At first, their efforts were fruitless, but they persevered with a trust in God. Ferguson was a host within himself, talented, tactful, resourceful, sincere, an excellent judge of human nature, a good "mixer," plain and unassuming, the friend of everybody. To the people, he was just Harry Ferguson. Incidentally, he was the pastor of the Baptist church at Cumberland, Iowa, and his church had sent him to Bray-

ton for a season of missionary work. No task was too arduous for him to undertake; he never became discouraged, nor was any service too humiliating. He subsequently became district missionary and afterwards removed to Oregon. Together with his two assistants, they assailed the enemy in mass formation until they penetrated the lines. The results of the meetings were many converts and the formal organization of the church. Some of the first members were, J. S. Harter and wife, A. T. Horton and wife, J. G. Chamberlain and wife, O. F. Ide and wife, Mark Heath and wife, W. R. Koob and wife, J. O. Cotton and wife, L. B. Clark and wife, I. H. Jenkins and wife, Mrs. Fanny Howell, W. Brinkerhoff, Curt Cotton, Grace Clark, Maria Jenkins, Frank Jenkins, Pearl Jenkins, May Jenkins, and there were many others whose names are not available for the reason that the records of that church, like the average church, have been imperfectly kept.

A commodious and comfortable church edifice was at once erected in Brayton. Soon afterward there were enrolled about eighty members, and the congregation was in a flourishing condition. The first minister called as pastor was Reverend Doane, who was ordained subsequent to taking up the pastorate. Among the other pastors who followed him—and there were many—were Reverend Jewell, Reverend Brown, Reverend O'Connor, Reverend Sloan and Reverend Wilcox. There were others whose stay was of short duration. The church, like many other churches, has had its "ups and downs" and some of the members think that during the last few years the "downs" have predominated. Many of the members have died and others have moved away, until there appears to be not enough left to carry on the work. They have a fine church building, free from debt, recently lighted with electricity. The field is white, already to harvest, but the reapers are few, and the remaining members are praying that the Lord of the harvest will send forth laborers into his harvest.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, EXIRA.

The First Church of Christ, Scientist, was organized at Exira, on May 15, 1897, with twelve members. The following have been first readers in the church: John G. Gates, R. Ella Hensley, William R. Bruner, Flora B. Hensley, Isaac Statzell. The church edifice was built in 1906-7, at a cost of seven hundred dollars. The present membership is seven.

CATHOLIC CHURCHES.

Holy Trinity Roman Catholic church, at Exira, was organized as St. Boniface church in 1879, the following persons being charter members:

John Martes, William Bintner, Peter Tharnish, John Rieff, Frank Dorr. The first church building, a wooden structure, was erected in 1879. Having outgrown this building, the present church, a brick edifice, eighty by forty feet in size, was erected in 1902, at a cost of ten thousand dollars.

The Holy Trinity school has also been connected with this church, but has been temporarily discontinued. The present church membership is one hundred and seventy, or about forty-five families. The list of pastors who have served the church is Rev. Father Gaul, Rev. Father P. Daley, both from Atlantic; Rev. Father P. J. Morin, Rev. Father Bernhard Jacobmire, Rev. Father J. J. Moran, from Audubon, and the following resident pastors, Rev. Father H. J. Zaiser, May, 1894, to August 18, 1898; Rev. Father Julius Farlenschmid, August 18, 1898, to 1902; Rev. Father S. F. Wieland, 1902 to 1907; Rev. Father Charles F. Hundt, 1907 to 1911; Rev. Father James McDonald (from Audubon), 1911 to 1913; Rev. Father John Mayer, 1913 to date.

ST. PATRICK'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, AT AUDUBON.

Early in the history of Audubon there settled in the town, John Holland and family, Nicholas Roth and family, John Ballman and family, J. P. Thanish and family, John Martin and family, and, in the country adjacent to Audubon, B. Cunningham and family, E. Roche and family and possibly other Catholic families whose names are not recalled.

In about 1881, Rev. Father Gaule came from Atlantic to look after these families and, at the first meeting, celebrated mass at the home of John Holland. Later, the meetings were held in the public school house, Father Gaule continuing his visits every four or six weeks until 1883. In the spring of 1882, under the direction of Father Gaule, a church, twenty-eight by forty-five feet in size, was erected on the brow of the hill, two blocks east of the park. Soon after its erection the church, during a severe storm, was moved from its foundation, but was replaced, with much effort and expense.

In 1883 Rev. Father Daly, who was then stationed in Atlantic, began visiting Audubon, as a successor to Father Gaule, about every four weeks, and continued to do so for six years.

Rev. Father P. J. Morin was the first resident pastor, coming in 1889 and serving one year. He was followed by Rev. Father Bernhard Jacobmeier, who, in 1891, built the comfortable parsonage just north of the church. He served three years and in 1894 was succeeded by Rev. Father J. J. Moran, whose pastorate lasted one year. In 1895 Rev. Father Mathew Gleason came as pastor and rendered the church six years of very acceptable service,

being a very popular pastor and building up the church till it became necessary to enlarge the structure to its present size, building an addition, twenty-eight by forty feet. He was followed by Rev. Father Loftus, whose pastorate lasted till 1901. During his time the parsonage was remodeled and rebuilt to harmonize with the ability and needs of the parish. Rev. Father Flavin succeeded Father Loftus in 1901 and remained until 1904. During his pastorate, a two-story school building, thirty-two by forty-eight feet in size, was erected, east of the church, and a parochial school opened under his direction, assisted by two Sisters; this after an existence of some years, was discontinued.

In 1904, the present pastor, Rev. Father James McDonald, was assigned to the parish and has done faithful and efficient service for his church during these twelve years. He is very popular with both Catholics and Protestants, his congregations being large and harmony prevailing between pastor and people. The present membership is fifty families, or more than two hundred members, many of them being families of wealth.

RECAPITULATION.

The following table shows the number of churches, their value and the number of members of the various denominations:

	Bldgs.	Value.	Members.
Adventists -----	2	\$3,000.00	129
Baptists -----	3	7,500.00	106
Congregational -----	1	1,200.00	74
Catholic -----	2	1,500.00	300
Christian -----	3	1,000.00	160
Evangelical -----	3	5,500.00	170
Lutheran (Danish) -----	8	21,000.00	1,407
Lutheran (German) -----	2	11,500.00	210
Methodist Episcopal -----	9	24,800.00	587
Presbyterian -----	1	15,000.00	210
Scientist (Christian) -----	1	700.00	7
United Brethren -----	2	3,000.00	91

The foregoing figures as to valuation and membership are approximate only, as, owing to incomplete records, it is impossible to be exact. It should also be borne in mind that some denominations include all members of the family in their roll of members, while others do not.

The number of church buildings in each township is as follows: Viola, 2; Cameron, 1; Lincoln, 3; Douglas, 1; LeRoy, 10; Milville, 2; Gurley, 2; Hamlin, 2; Sharon, 3; Oakfield, 4; Exira, 6; Audubon, 1; total, 37.

The rise and fall of so many places of religious service in the county indicate this one thing, that these churches apparently have not been able to solve the ever-present problem in all denominations, namely, the conservation of our rural churches. The constant ebb and flow of the rural population renders this one of the live questions of the day in the religious world. The removal of a single family, and, not infrequently, of one individual, from a community oftentimes so cripples a church congregation or class, as to almost compel the abandonment of the work at that point.

Thus we find that, especially, Protestant churches have here and there been compelled to drop one-time flourishing points and take up new points where the promise appeared good for greater usefulness.

The proposition to make the rural church a social center for a neighborhood or community, now being tried in many places, may prove of great value in solving this problem, but, with the present-day means of transportation, the fleet automobile, with ordinary roads, hardly a family in the county would be more than a half-hour's ride from a place of worship. Especially does this appear true when we consider the churches and places of worship that are just beyond our borders in adjoining counties and where many of our people hold their membership and are accustomed to worship. These places are not mentioned here, as this history is confined to Audubon county, excepting a few instances in its early history.

CHAPTER XVI.

AUDUBON COUNTY SCHOOLS.

THE FIRST SCHOOL.

Daniel M. Harris and Peoria I. Whitted are said to be entitled to credit for starting the first school in Audubon county. At their suggestion, in the spring of the year 1854, they, with Nathaniel Hamlin, Richard M. Lewis, Thomas S. Lewis, Isaac V. D. Lewis, W. H. H. Bowen, John M. Donnel, and perhaps others, met in Mr. Hamlin's dooryard and agreed to erect a log room for a private school house. Mr. Hamlin and Mr. Bowen agreed to give the timber in the tree for the building. The Lewises, Elijah and William Carpenter and Mr. Bowen cut the logs and Bowen hauled them with an ox team. The people assembled on a day set, made a log rolling and put up the walls of the building on the land of Mr. Hamlin, in the edge of the timber on the west side of the road leading south from near Hamlin's house, about a quarter of a mile distant.

Some of those who performed the work were John S. Johnson, Reuben Carpenter, John M. Donnel, Daniel M. Harris, James Eagan, Walter J. Jardine, W. H. H. Bowen, and perhaps others. Mr. Hamlin was the "boss," and Richard M. Lewis, Isaac V. D. Lewis, William Carpenter and Peoria I. Whitted were axmen, and each carried up a corner of the building. The walls were rough hewed inside and chinked, and a roof put on. As was the custom, and to encourage the workmen, a supply of "liquid inspiration" was on hand, but tradition does not mention the "bottle holder." Reuben Carpenter gave an oak tree for the "shakes," or long shingles, to cover the roof, which were "rived" by him and the Lewises and were laid on by Hamlin, Whitted, the Lewises, and perhaps others.

A half-sash window, with ten by twelve lights, was placed in the north and south sides, and a door in the east end of the room. Mr. Bowen got boards at Iraniston, Iowa, for the door and writing desks, the latter being formed by stout pins in the wall, upon which boards were fastened. The floor was made of split basswood logs, called "puncheons," and the benches for seats were made in the same manner, with pins for legs.

Miss Ella Northgraves, of Cass county, taught the only term of school in this room, which began in March, 1855. She was hired and paid by Hamlin and Harris. The pupils were Mary, Hannah, Rose, Malinda and W. Allan Hamlin; Belle, James, Clarinda and Daniel W. Harris; Nancy Stanley and another pupil from Grove City, name unknown. Such was the foundation of school instruction in Audubon county. The Hamlin children, except Mary, and the Harris children mentioned are now living. Hannah Hamlin, now Mrs. Hawk, and Rose Hamlin, now Mrs. Thomas, became school teachers. John F. Wallace afterward taught a term of private school in Nathaniel Hamlin's old first log dwelling.

LOCATION OF SOME COUNTY SCHOOLS.

In 1865 there were but five school houses in Audubon county, viz.: one at Exira; one at Audubon City (Hamlin's Grove); one on section 27, Exira township, known as the Frost school; one on the northeast corner of section 17, Exira township, where the present school house is situated, known as the Green school house, and one at Oakfield.

The following year there was a new school house built at Jobes, on section 1, Audubon township; one near Ballards, on section 36, Oakfield township; and another near Beerses, on section 2, Hamlin township. From that time onward school districts and school houses increased, until at the present time every part of the county is well supplied.

The youths of Audubon county have first-class opportunities of obtaining primary education, and the high schools of Audubon and Exira furnish extra facilities for pursuing higher branches of study.

FIRST COUNTY INSTITUTE.

In 1866, while Benjamin F. Thomas was county superintendent of schools, a teachers' county institute or convention was held at Exira for a week, conducted by Professor Enos, from Cedar Falls, Iowa. This was the first meeting of the kind in the county attended by the writer. It is traditional that there had once been previously a teachers' meeting, when Robert N. Day was county superintendent. Those in attendance at the institute in 1866 were Benjamin F. Thomas, Clara Barlow, Malinda A. Norton, Jennie M. Norton, Jennie McCowan, Susan Ballard, Carrie Ballard, Helena Delahoyde, Laura Delahoyde, Julia Delahoyde, Tryphenia Hopkins, Edna Prior, H. F. Andrews, Charles H. Andrews, Van Buren Crane and probably others.

It was a pleasant occasion and highly enjoyed by the teachers and citizens in attendance. Among the teachers conspicuously absent were John A. Hallock, Beulah Sylvester, George A. Dissmore and Juliette Bowen.

In 1878 there were forty-nine school houses and one thousand two hundred and five pupils of school age in Audubon county.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS.

Charles F. Wilcutt was county superintendent from 1884 to 1889, inclusive. He had been at the head of the Exira school several years. He graded the school and brought it up to standard requirements. He was an important factor in establishing the county school system on a modern basis. In 1888 the system of the rural school districts and school houses was completed about as we have it at the present time, with three thousand two hundred and eighty-three pupils of school ages. David P. Repass was the next superintendent, from 1890 to 1897, inclusive, another model school officer. He was followed in turn by Robert C. Spencer and Arthur Farquhar, who were also able and efficient officers.

Miss Ella M. Stearns, the present incumbent of the superintendent's office, was elected in 1906, practically as a nonpartisan candidate, and was re-elected successively several times in the same manner. This unusual compliment and courtesy suggests her ability and popularity as a practical, progressive, up-to-date educationalist, and head of the present county school system.

CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE IN 1905.

The enumeration taken in 1905 showed the following number of children of school age in Audubon county: Independent Districts—Audubon, 542; Exira, 242; Gray, 64; Brayton, 76. Townships—Audubon, 377; Cameron, 234; Douglas, 370; Exira, 348; Greely, 278; Hamlin, 376; Leroy, 255; Lincoln, 358; Melville, 203; Oakfield, 376; Sharon, 504; Viola, 247. Total, 4,850. Illiterates in the county, 97.

SCHOOL STATISTICS FOR 1914.

The following table shows the school enumeration for the year 1914, in the independent districts and in the respective townships of Audubon county:

	School houses.	Teachers.	Pupils enrolled.
Audubon -----	2	16	503
Exira -----	1	9	301
Gray -----	1	3	67
Kimballton -----	1	3	72
Audubon township -----	9	16	225
Cameron township -----	9	13	150
Douglas township -----	9	15	220
Exira township -----	10	18	200
Greeley township -----	9	15	176
Hamlin township -----	9	13	230
Leroy township -----	8	12	183
Lincoln township -----	8	11	141
Melville township -----	9	14	155
Oakfield township -----	9	14	195
Sharon township -----	9	13	225
Viola township -----	9	20	171
Totals -----	112	205	3,214

Value of school houses in 1915, \$141,950.

REPORT SHOWS GOOD CONDITION OF SCHOOLS.

In her report for the year 1914, County Superintendent Ella M. Stearns included the following:

“Born in rejoicing and cradled in hope,
 Pointing new paths for adventurous feet,
 Promising power with the future to cope,
 Whispering low of the summer-time sweet
 Camest thou hither. Now nearing thy bier,
 What dost thou leave us, Oh, vanishing year?”

“In accordance with the time-honored custom, this is where the business world is getting ready to take its annual inventory of its resources and liabilities, and so we believe this may be a fitting time for a brief review or inventory of our schools.

“Our commission of education has recently said, ‘Among the greatest

needs of rural schools of the United States is that of better houses. Most of the older houses are cheap, ugly, uncomfortable, badly ventilated, poorly heated and lighted, with no conveniences for school work and many with inadequate and filthy outbuildings. In many places, abandoned churches and cabins, no longer fit for use as homes, are given over to the schools—some-what as out-grown, out-worn and cast-off clothing is given to paupers.

CONDITIONS IN AUDUBON COUNTY.

“The first part of this statement will apply to some of the schools in our county. The ‘vanishing year’ will leave us with some ‘ugly, uncomfortable, badly ventilated, poorly heated and lighted school buildings and some wrecked and filthy outbuildings, that are both a physical and moral menace to the pupils of those districts. While these are classed as liabilities, we have a goodly number of resources to place on the other side of the balance sheet.

“The year 1914 has added several new and sanitary school buildings to our capital stock of new buildings given in at the beginning of the year.

WHAT SCHOOL HOUSES SHOULD BE.

“School houses are not only the temples which we erect to the god of childhood; they are the homes of our children for a large part of the day, through the most plastic years of their lives, the years when they are the most responsive to impressions of beauty or of ugliness, and when their environment is, therefore, most important. The houses should, therefore, be planned and built not only with the feeling of reverence with which all temples and other sacred buildings are erected, but also with that care for health, comfort and convenience which we exercise in the building of our homes. It is economic waste of the worst type to spend annually large sums for schools, perhaps larger sums in the time of children and then fail of the best results because of bad construction and poor equipment of school houses. It is worse than an economic waste to destroy the health and lives of children through failure to observe simple and well-known sanitary laws. The school improvement leagues of some of our states have taken for their motto, ‘For Our Schools: Health, Comfort and Beauty.’

HEALTH, COMFORT AND BEAUTY.

“This has been the motto taken for our new buildings in this county and has been carried out to the best of our ability in several of the older buildings

in the county. 'Health and Comfort' have been looked after in lighting, heating and ventilating of the buildings, in the heated cloak-rooms, in the handy arrangements of the fuel room, right-sized desks and proper arrangement of them and in the use of the sweeping compounds to guard against an undue amount of dust in the school rooms. There are also many schools using the stone water jars and individual drinking cups. One of the most difficult problems of hygiene in the rural school is that connected with the water supply.

THE BEAUTY SIDE.

"And now for the 'Beauty' side. The walls of several school rooms have been tinted a subdued but pleasing color, and treated with a flat or oil paint, devoid of gloss, washable without injury, the effect of the decoration. This has been done at comparatively slight expense. There have been put up picture rails in order to protect the walls, if for no other reason. The school rooms have been supplied with a few good pictures suited to the age of the pupils; many of these are worthy copies of the great masterpieces. And we will also say here that several of these have built-in book cases, filled with suitable books and supplementary readers, along with other suitable furniture.

"In many other districts having the older buildings, the room furnaces have been installed and the school rooms have been made cheerful and comfortable. The large majority of Audubon county rural schools are kept in very good condition. In talking with other county superintendents, we have come to the conclusion that we rank well with the other counties of the state, yet there is still room for improvement.

"The town schools in the county are well housed and equipped considerably above the average towns of their size. One of our towns is putting up a new school building which is modern in every respect and certainly reflects credit upon the community, school board and city superintendent.

"In listing our resources, we have kept close to the physical or material equipment of our schools, but there are other resources, did space permit, we might mention such as the home credit work, the spelling contests, etc.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS.

"The work the young people, and older people, too, have been doing in lyceums, debating clubs and country life clubs, must at least have mention. The work for the coming winter has already started. There used to be the

husking bees, the barn raisings, the threshing days and even the log-rollings. There used to be the spelling bees, the old-time 'literataries,' the 'heated' debates. We hope to hear of every community having some kind of organization this winter whereby the people may come together for profit and amusement. We have considerable material accumulated in our office just waiting to be used in such ways, and we want the young people to feel free to come to the office for this material.

"The school house door must swing open freely for all who would work for the public good and for everything that may contribute to community welfare. Above the door of every rural school house in the land should some such sentiment as this be written: 'This Building is Dedicated to the Service of this Community and to a Common Cause of a Better Life for All.'"

CHAPTER XVII.

LODGES AND FRATERNAL SOCIETIES.

ORGANIZATIONS AT AUDUBON.

Veritas Lodge No. 392, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons. Dispensation dated February 18, 1879. Charter dated June 4, 1879. First meeting March 7, 1879. Charter members: Elias W. Beghtol, Emerson H. Kimball, Arthur L. Sanborn, Joseph Snyder, William L. Swaney, A. A. Campbell, John C. Bonwell, Robert M. Hubbard, William Wilde, Chester Wheeler, Cyrus H. Earhart, Frank H. Burr, Robert G. Sands.

These have held the office of worshipful master: Elias W. Beghtol, Ethelbert J. Freeman, John D. Holmes, Marion Johnson, Andrew F. Armstrong, Henry W. Hanna, John H. Scott, John McKarahan, James L. Rippey, Daniel L. Freeman, A. M. Currier, Joe H. Ross, Walter A. Brainard, Edward B. Cousins, William R. Smith, Abner H. Edwards, Halleck J. Mantz, George Scott, George G. Wever.

Present membership, one hundred and thirty-six.

Amity Chapter No. 93, Royal Arch Masons. Dispensation dated April 18, 1881. Charter dated October 28, 1881. Charter members: Thomas Chadwick, Elias W. Beghtol, Andrew F. Armstrong, Henry Young, Alpheus F. Rogers, Philip Young, Isaac A. Shingledecker, Francis M. Jones, Robert G. Sands, George E. Hastings.

These have held the office of high priest: Thomas Chadwick, Elias W. Beghtol, Andrew F. Armstrong, Henry W. Hanna, Alexander H. Roberts, Charles W. DeMotte, Edward B. Cousins, Daniel L. Freeman, John M. McKarahan, Frank S. Watts, Abner H. Edwards, George W. Preston, John Weighton, Charles L. Tramp, Earl Maharg.

Present membership, ninety-three.

Godfrey Commandery No. 44, Knights Templar. Dispensation dated April 15, 1882. Charter dated June 22, 1882. Charter members: Elkanah S. Foster, Isaac A. Shingledecker, Ethelbert J. Freeman, Elias W. Beghtol, Andrew F. Armstrong, Henry W. Hanna, William H. Scott, Edward B.

Cousins, Wilson Burnside, John Norris, George E. Hastings, Francis M. Jones, Alpheus F. Rogers.

These have held the office of eminent commander: Elkanah S. Foster, Ethelbert J. Freeman, Isaac A. Shingledecker, Daniel H. Walker, Andrew F. Armstrong, William H. Scott, Alexander H. Roberts, John A. Nash, Edward B. Cousins, John B. Doak, Cyrus H. Earhart, James E. Griffith, Daniel L. Freeman, John M. McKarahan.

Present membership, ninety.

Audubon Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star. Instituted November 21, 1888, with sixty-one charter members. First officers: Mrs. Gertrude R. Nash, worthy matron; Mrs. A. H. Roberts, worthy patron; Mrs. B. W. Brown, associate matron; Eva Freeman, treasurer; Mrs. H. W. Hanna, secretary; Mrs. H. W. Wilson, conductor.

Audubon Chapter No. 421, Order of the Eastern Star. Organized June 15, 1908. Chartered October 29, 1908. Charter members: Harriet M. Bilharz, Martha A. Bryant, Christine Christensen, Agnes Cole, Lucile Cole, Ada Currier, Drucca Davis, Nellie Farquhar, Alice Layland, Clara E. McLeran, Bertha Musson, Eva Earls, Kathryn Simpson, Villa Talbott, Anna Tramp, Nettie L. Ward, Ada K. Wever, Emma K. Wilson, Walter A. Brainard, Daniel L. Freeman, John A. Musson, Will R. Smith, Harper W. Wilson, A. M. Currier.

These have held the office of worthy matron and worthy patron, respectively: 1908-9—Harriett M. Bilharz, worthy matron, Daniel L. Freeman, worthy patron; 1910—Clara E. McLeran, Arthur Farquhar; 1911—Anna Tramp, Adam M. Currier; 1912—Nellie Farquhar, George G. Wever; 1913—Etta Kennels, Joe H. Ross; 1914—Kathryn Simpson, George W. Wever; 1915—Ada K. Wever, Daniel L. Freeman.

Present membership, eighty-seven.

Aretas Lodge No. 396, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Instituted August 17, 1879. Charter dated October 23, 1879. Charter members: Henry E. Cole, William Mallory, S. B. Johnson, Samuel P. Rhoads, T. M. Acres, George W. Myers.

These have held the office of noble grand: Henry E. Cole, Seth Paine, J. F. Wells, J. W. Rosenburg, Evan Davis, Thomas J. Stafford, E. M. Funk, Fred A. Buthweg, Joseph H. Breniman, O. A. Overfield, George W. Ellis, William Cloughley, H. M. Stuart, Andrew J. Bailey, James R. Chandler, John H. Frahm, Charles T. Tramp, Thomas J. Frederick, Peter M. Sheaffer, Peter I. Drury, Melvin Nichols, Eugene M. Johnson, S. A. Aikeman, James H. Baker, Harlan P. Albert, James L. Rippey, John F. Consigney, Henry J.

Cooley, Henry Röhrbeck; William H. Kelley, Jr., Joseph Dixon, William P. McLaren, John T. Chapman, John Kennedy, Joseph Moody, George W. Hoover, Roy L. Hibbs, William Hamilton, C. E. Delahoyde, Jens O. Christensen; Joe H. Ross, William Blohen, O. C. Donaldson, Harry Parrott, A. H. Delahoyde, J. H. Freedline, William A. Thompson, George W. Oelke, John M. Hite, Charles E. Nelson, H. M. McLuan, Howard E. Kettell, Jesse Graves, John A. Graham, A. M. Carrier, George W. Dye, F. J. Schwardt.

Present membership, one hundred and five.

Allison Post No. 34, Grand Army of the Republic. Organized March 19, 1881. Re-organized May 4, 1883. It was named for Capt. Robert Allison, Company C. Sixth Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, who was killed at Missionary Ridge, November 25, 1863. Charter members: Elkanah S. Foster, Seth Paine, H. C. Paul, W. P. Roades, Emerson H. Kimball, D. H. Walker, Ethelbert J. Freeman, Elias W. Bechtal, J. B. Roades, John F. Consigney, Henry E. Cole, J. P. Gray, B. P. Schovill, Arthur L. Sanborn, J. C. Williams, James Pollett, P. H. Anderson, David Adams, John Both, Robert C. Cobeau, Henry Newmire, C. P. Maple.

These comrades have held the office of post commander: Elkanah H. Foster, 1881; Ethelbert J. Freeman, 1883; Melvin Nichols, 1884; J. W. B. Cole, 1885; Clark H. Cross, 1886; J. Mal Bryan, 1887; Elisha Baxter, 1888; Harper W. Wilson, 1889; Henry E. Cole, 1890; John S. Dennis, 1891; Henry F. Andrews, 1892; Ed. B. Cousins, 1893; Joel E. Sharp, 1894; A. S. Culver, 1895; Abner H. Edwards, 1896; G. H. Jones, 1897; George Agnew, 1898; Charles Wilkins, 1899; Hiram M. Talbot, 1900; Joseph Ridpath, 1901; Martin Smith, 1902; J. W. Baker, 1903; William Lyman, 1904; John Ott, 1905; Daniel L. Thomas, 1906; John C. Willson, 1907; Clark Wilson, 1908; Lewis A. McGinnis, 1909; Ethelbert J. Freeman, 1910; Wesley H. Jay, 1911; John N. Brockway, 1912; George Agnew, 1913; Anthony N. Detwiler, 1914; J. C. Fisher, 1915.

Audubon Lodge No. 164, Knights of Pythias. Organized October 7, 1886. Charter members: William Cloughley, J. W. Rosenburg, Seth Paine, Harlan P. Albert, Peter Book, H. H. Willis, William H. O'Connell, J. A. Wheatley, Edwin Delahoyde, Peter W. Ledyard, Lewis D. Phelps, Alfred L. Brooks, E. J. Smith, W. H. McClure, John Intween, Benjamin F. Howald, C. H. Colson, W. D. Blackwood, John F. Consigney, Melvin Nichols, Hans A. Christensen, S. A. Aukerman, G. R. Darlington, John A. Nash, Adelbert L. Weaver, Henry B. Herbert, John H. Kate, John H. Rendleman.

Past chancellor commanders: Harlan P. Albert, P. W. Ledyard, William H. O'Connell, John A. Nash, W. H. McClure, Adelbert L. Weaver, W. H.

Negley, J. A. Wheatley, Seth Paine, John Weighton, Frank E. Brainard, Simeon L. VanScoy, Charles Vail, Frank Fish, Frank P. Rees, Harry D. Fish, John H. Mosier, Ed. Dickinson, Ed. S. VanGorder, Robert C. Rice, David, C. Mott, Orrin B. Train, Fred H. Blume, George E. Kellogg, Charles E. Breniman, Arthur Farquhar, Peter A. Rasmussen, Hans Albertsen, William J. Hamilton, Vern L. Culver.

Present membership, forty-two.

Audubon Woman's Relief Corps No. 38. Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic. Organized May 26, 1885. Charter dated September 15, 1885. Charter members: Lizzie Kimball, Emma Mathias, Esther Bryan, Maria Needles, Almeda Nichols, Fannie E. Talbot, Myrtle Cole, Lydia E. Rosenburg, Rachel Cole, Alice M. Consigney, Anna Edmondson, Sarah A. Gardner, Delia Ott, Sarah G. Cason, Martha Peck, Mary Mathias.

Past Presidents: Emma Kimball, Alice M. Consigney, Lydia E. Rosenburg, Fannie E. Talbot, Ella L. Bell, Delia Ott, Lydia A. Chandler, Eliza I. Moyer, Minerva Cole, Mina Bartch, Charity Aldrich, Agnes Cole, Mary Kraus, Levina McGinnis.

Present membership, sixty-five.

Charles Stuart Camp No. 50, Sons of Veterans. Organized October 13, 1885. First officers: Daniel L. Freeman, first lieutenant; Charles H. Rollins, second lieutenant; Edwin Delahoyde, first sergeant; Wilson S. Kimball, quartermaster. Daniel L. Freeman, major of Iowa division, June, 1888.

It had a membership of fifty. Capt. Charles Stuart presented the camp seventy-two breach-loading Springfield rifles and equipment. The camp was disbanded years ago.

Audubon Lodge No. 158, The Danish Brotherhood in America. Organized December 17, 1902. First officers: Peter A. Rasmussen, past president; J. P. Kilgar, president; Chris Hendricksen, vice-president; Nels Hansen, secretary; Hans Albertsen, treasurer; Ed Ruiss, Rasmus Rasmussen, Jens C. Christensen, trustees; Henry Jacobsen, guide; Jacob W. Andersen, inner guard; Chris H. Berg, outer guard.

Charter members: N. G. Nelsen, Anders Lastine, Knud Fredericksen, Chr. J. Roed, Ludvig Gamrath, Jens O. Chritsensen, Julius Rasmussen, L. C. Larsen, Lawitz Madsen, Walter Jensen, Rasmus Sorensen, A. J. Jensen, Chris Olsen, Steffen Mathisen, Niels Top, Lars O. Petersen, Mathias Johnson, Nels P. Petersen.

These have been president: Peter A. Rasmussen, J. P. Kelgar, Chris Hendricksen, Jas Lang, Rasmus Rasmussen, Peter Mathisen, Jacob M. Ander-

sen, Haas Albertsen, Lars C. Christoffersen, Lars O. Petersen, Lars J. Larsen.

Present membership, seventy-eight.

Freja Lodge No. 97, Danish Sisters Society in America. Date of charter, February 22, 1907. First officers: Anna M. Vosmos, ex-president; Neorline Kellogg, president; Christine Berg, vice-president; Jakoline C. Rasmussen, secretary; Kirstine A. Christensen, treasurer; Kirstine M. Christensen, Anna M. Olsen, Celia M. Johnsen, trustees; Lina Albertsen, marshal; Kirstine H. Petersen, inner guard; Kirstine M. Knudsen, outer guard.

Present membership, twenty-six.

ORGANIZATIONS AT BRAYTON.

Audubon Lodge No. 217, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The oldest lodge in Audubon county. Organized at Louisville, Iowa, October 19, 1871. Removed to Oakfield, Iowa, 1874, and in 1882 to Brayton, Iowa. Charter members: Daniel W. Miller, Orris C. Keith, Francis J. Shrauger, Richard Gault, J. F. Low, John B. Connrardy.

These have held the office of noble grand: Daniel W. Miller, Francis J. Shranger, Orris C. Keith, Isaac V. D. Lewis, Giles N. Jones, Samuel Minser, John B. Conrardy, John T. Jenkins, Joseph Doner, Peter F. Howell, Isaac H. Jenkins, C. Adelbert Heath, Horace M. Bartlett, Thomas J. Essington, Joseph Reynolds, Charles L. Bison, James L. Anderson, Erwin A. Jones, Walter Brown, Evelyn Wood, Ward B. Smith, William R. Koob, Ed. Cotton, Sidney McGuire, Jacob P. Bendixen, Ludwig F. Miller, Hans Nymand, Jacob Blom, Silas B. Clark, Lewis P. Rasmussen, John Lorah, Samuel B. Green, Hans Hansen, Peter Beck, Warren G. Chase, John W. Cannon, N. M. Nelson.

Present membership, forty-eight.

Brayton Lodge No. 567, Daughters of Rebekah. Chartered February 14, 1907. Charter members: Horace W. Bartlet and wife and daughter, Mildred; Charles L. Bisom and wife and daughter, Imo; Hans Hansen and wife and daughter, Alma; Erwin A. Jones and wife; Samuel B. Green and wife; Lewis P. Rasmussen and wife; Ward P. Smith and wife; Clyde Bowen, Evelyn Wood, H. S. Burton, Peter F. Howell.

These ladies have held the office of noble grand: Jeanette Bartlett, Mrs. Charles L. Bisom, Mrs. Lewis P. Rasmussen, Ray Miller, Vivian Bart-

lett, Ardine Bartlett, Gladys Chamberlain, Ethel Bisom, Mrs. B. M. Gross, Minnie Miller, Mrs. Warren G. Chase, Edna Hansen.

Present membership, forty-one.

Brayton Camp No. 2900, Modern Woodmen of America. Charter dated April 17, 1895. Charter members: Jacob P. Bendixen, Hans Nymand, Peter C. Knudsen, Jacob Blom, Jesse Nymand, William R. Koob, David A. Carpenter, P. C. Petersen, Ludwig F. Miller, Peter J. Hansen, John A. Stender.

These have held the office of venerable consul: Jacob P. Bendixen, William R. Koob, Thomas J. McGovern, Daniel W. Chamberlin, Ray G. Chamberlin, Raymond Miller, John A. Johnson, Ludwig F. Miller, Howard M. Parrott, and others.

Present membership, one hundred and twenty.

Danish Brotherhood Lodge No. 297. Organized September 1, 1913. Officers: Peter Beck, president; Hans Anderson, secretary; Martin L. Beck, cashier; Peter Christensen, R. Nielson and Chr. Hansen, trustees.

Present membership, thirty-two.

ORGANIZATIONS AT EXIRA.

Exodus Lodge No. 342, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. Charter dated June 3, 1875. Thirteen charter members. First officers: William J. Harris, worshipful master; Thomas Walker, senior warden; Edwin C. Wadsworth, junior warden; Alonzo L. Campbell, secretary; Appolonius B. Houston, treasurer; H. Ransford, senior deacon; James P. Lair, junior deacon; George Colph, tyler.

These have held the office of worshipful master: William J. Harris, Thomas Walker, Ethelbert J. Freeman, George Hardenbrook, Francis J. Shrauger, W. W. Sickles, Erwin Watson, John Riley, Thomas H. Allen, Thomas J. Cogan, William H. Jones, James P. Lair, Hiram H. Dimick, Al Voorhees, Leroy J. Oldaker, John Schlater, Ernest D. Powell, B. F. Kreamer, J. B. J. Lohmor.

Present membership, seventy-two.

Exodus Chapter No. 313, Order of the Eastern Star. Charter dated October 23, 1901. Charter members: Jennie M. Andrews, Alice Connrardy, Lucille Connrardy, Jane V. Dimick, Iva Erickson, Sadie Hamlin, Nola Hamler, Jessamine Hunt, Anna McAninch, Mary J. Riley, Dena Statzell, Sadie Shrauger, Eva Voorhees, Ida Wissler, Claude N. Andrews, John

B. Connrardy, Hiram H. Dimick, John J. Dimick, Robert E. L. Hamlin, John Riley, Alfred Voorhees, Henry L. Wissler.

Present membership, about eighty.

Exira Lodge No. 181, Knights of Pythias. Organized August 31, 1887. Charter dated October 6, 1887. Charter members: Francis J. Shrauger, Henry F. Andrews, Erwin Watson, F. W. Shaw, Charles H. Andrews, William E. Coleman, John Hunter, William Carpenter, Albert C. Andrews, William H. Milliman, George C. Jeffries, Otto Witthauer, Fred L. Andrews, Theodore Patty, John Crane, Horace M. Bartlett, Charles N. Milliman, Nels P. Christensen.

These have held the office of chancellor commander: Henry F. Andrews, 1887, 1900; Erwin Watson, 1888; William E. Coleman, 1889; Charles H. Andrews, 1890; Otto Witthauer, 1891; J. Mack Thomas, 1892; George Henshaw, 1893; George Conklin, 1894; Samuel Brown, 1895; Alfred Voorhees, 1896; J. O. Howard, 1897; Norton J. Marietta, 1898; John C. Newlon, 1899; Chris. A. Rasmussen, 1900; Henry L. Wissler, 1901; Perry Hansen, 1902; Victor E. Gearheart, 1903; Chester W. Marlin, 1904-5; Fred A. Nims, 1905; Leroy J. Oldaker, 1906; Theodore Patty, 1907; Charles Findley, 1908; Ernest D. Powell, 1908-9; John M. Dimick, 1910; Peter M. Christensen, 1911; Charles O. Hunt, 1912; Albert C. Andrews, 1913; John K. Vander Brake, 1914.

Present membership, seventy-two.

Exira Temple No. 245, Pythian Sisters. Charter dated September 3, 1912. Charter members: Mrs. May Dimick, Mrs. Maud Oldaker, Mrs. Anna Vande Brake, Mrs. Elizabeth Rethmier, Miss Lillian Dyer, Mrs. Viola Christensen, Mrs. Katheryn Cotton, Mrs. Genevieve Harvey, Mrs. Katheryn Kroeger.

These ladies have held the office of most excellent chief: Mrs. Katheryn Kroeger, Mrs. May Dimick, Mrs. Katheryn Cotton, Mrs. Maude Oldaker.

Present membership, sixty-four.

J. C. Newlon Camp No. 2820, Modern Woodmen of America, organized March 20, 1895. Charter members: George L. Knapp, Thomas H. Allen, Jacob Bauer, William W. Marietta, Robert L. Houston, John I. Hensley, August Heckman, Bert Hardenbrook, Benjamin F. Davis, W. D. Stanley, Charles W. Houston, John P. Aupperlee, John C. Newlon, John Peters, Otto Witthauer, S. Frank Wilcox, Fred Bartlet, H. A. Peters, William F. Davis, William Woodward, W. C. Aupperlee, D. D. Hunt, George W. Conklin, Frank L. Odell, Frank M. Hensley.

These have held the office of venerable consul: Otto Witthauer, Frank

L. Odell, Charles M. Oberholtz, Charles T. Waits, Abel S. Stone, Thomas H. Allen, John C. Newlon, Grant Jones, Ernest B. Voss, John Vander Brake.

Present membership, fifty-nine.

Exira Lodge No. 251, Ancient Order of United Workmen. Instituted June 28, 1884. Charter dated July 15, 1884. Charter members and first officers: W. W. Danner, past master workman; George Hardenbrook, master workman; Benjamin F. Thomas, g——— t———; George C. Jeffries, overseer; Thomas G. Bryant, recorder; William W. Sickles, financier; Charles F. Willcutt, receiver; Charles F. Howlett, guide; Thomas H. Allen, inner watchman; Charles H. Howe, outer watchman; John W. Freeland, William H. Millerman, Webster Heath, John Riley.

These members have held the office of master workman: George Hardenbrook, Benjamin F. Thomas, George C. Jeffries, Thomas G. Bryant, William W. Sickles, Henshaw, Charles F. Willcutt, Thomas H. Allen, Robert C. Watterson, John Riley, Wesley C. Smith, William H. Jones, Andrew J. Bruner, William Milliman, John C. Newlon, George Leffingwell, Henry L. Wissler, George W. Kreamer, George Milliman, Fremont Anders.

Present membership, thirty-one.

Oliver P. Morton Post No. 35, Grand Army of the Republic. Charter granted by P. V. Cary, department commander, dated September 21, 1881. Charter members: Richard W. Griggs, Benjamin Elcnhover, H. S. Cisney, George W. Bailey, John B. Connrardy, John T. Hill, W. R. Dafford, A. J. Brown, Peter Tharnish, Frank Dorr, Joseph H. Bell, H. F. Andrews. Reorganized February 19, 1884; December 2, 1889; and October 16, 1903.

These have been past commanders: 1881, Richard W. Griggs; 1884, Benjamin F. Thomas; 1884, James P. Lair; 1889, William H. Seavey; 1891, Samuel D. Harn; 1892, William H. Bowman; 1893-5, John B. Connrardy; 1895, Hiram H. Dimick; 1906, H. F. Andrews; 1907, Joesph H. Bell; 1909, William Bintner; 1910, John T. Hill; 1911, William C. Sturgen; 1912, William E. Davis; 1913, Thomas J. Adair; 1914, Hugh W. Copeland; 1915, Daniel Artist.

Exira Tent No. 41, Knights of the Maccabees. Organized November 30, 1894. Charter dated March 19, 1895. First officers: George C. Kerr, past sir knight commander; Bert R. Leaman, sir knight commander; B. E. Breniman, sir knight lieutenant commander; Frank B. Kerr, sir knight record keeper; Thomas Lohner, sir knight finance keeper; E. A. Tarnish,

sir knight chaplain; John Burmister, sir knight sergeant; N. P. Lauritzen, sir knight physician; William Mogg, sir knight master at arms; Charles N. Milliman, sir knight first master guard; Albert C. Andrews, sir knight second master guard; Dim. Rieff, sir knight sentinel; George W. Guernsey, sir knight picket.

These members have held the office of sir knight commander: Bert R. Leaman, Charles E. Breniman, Al Voorhees, O. B. Breniman, J. G. Wheelock, Thomas Dustin, C. E. Drake, Charles Fulton, S. A. Hicks, W. F. Williams, John Riley, Jr., Henry F. Bush.

Present membership, forty-four.

Brayton Lodge No. 31, The Danish Brotherhood in America. Organized at Brayton. Charter dated December 20, 1888. Transferred to Exira. First officers: Hans Hansen, past president; Jacob Bloom, president; Jacob P. Bendixen, vice-president; Peter Jacobsen, secretary; Chris Christensen, treasurer; Peter Neilsen, guide; Hans Symand, inner guard; Nels L. Beck, outer guard.

Present membership, fifty-one.

Denmarks Lodge No. 108, The Danish Sister's Society in America. Charter dated February 28, 1908. First officers: Sine Gude, past president; Marie Lohner, president; Eline M. Hansen, vice-president; Marie Hansen, secretary; Kathrine Hansen, treasurer; Karen Andersen, guide; Alma Hansen, inner guard; Christina Nelsen, outer guard.

Modern National Reserve. Organized at Exira, October, 1903. Its officers were: William E. Brinkerhoff, president; Mary Fulton, vice-president; Hattie Witthauer, secretary and treasurer; Amber Kelsey, chaplain; William Milliman, guide; Adam Seibert, inner guard; Charles Milliman, outer guard.

It had a large membership, who were transferred to the American Nobles. They were again transferred to the Fraternal Aid Union, of Denver, Colorado, in 1913. Present officers: Adam Seibert, president; Mary Fulton, secretary and treasurer.

Present membership, thirty-five.

Exira Homestead No. 805, Brotherhood of American Yeomen. Organized October 18, 1901. Officers: Norton J. Marietta, foreman; John Martin, master of ceremony; Elizabeth Martin, correspondent; George Martin, master of accounts; Arthur Hawk, physician; D. R. Simpkins, watchman; Fred Bechtold, sentinel; Charles McCord, guard.

Present membership, thirteen.

ORGANIZATIONS AT GRAY.

Utopia Lodge No. 161, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Organized April 20, 1888, by D. W. Powers. Chartered October 18, 1888. Charter members: O. B. Francisco, James S. Fisher, Samuel F. Donaldson, John T. Day, Thomas J. Spilker, H. W. Lebeck, Joseph E. Freetly.

These members have held the office of noble grand: 1888, Joseph E. Freetly; 1889, James S. Fisher, Thomas J. Spilker; 1890, O. B. Francisco, Cash U. Taylor; 1891, Walter J. Audas, Samuel F. Garmire; 1892, J. A. Campbell, Frank P. Huffman; 1893, Frank R. McLaughlin, William T. Emily; 1894, Mills E. Greenlee, George Wever; 1895, William L. Hamilton, Charles Tucker; 1896, Samuel C. Randalls, Milton D. Crow; 1897, William J. Lancelot, Samuel Keat; 1898, William H. Lancelot, William Z. Scott; 1899, John C. French, Lewis E. Edwards; 1900, Lawrence A. Beers, Wallace Bolton; 1901, Theron B. Creveling, Lawrence A. Beers; 1902, L. B. Graves, Joseph L. Nedrow; 1903, K. G. Lancelot, Horace B. Shelley; 1904, Frank R. McLaughlin, August G. Fosbeck; 1905, William Barger, Fred Baumann; 1906, Chris. Jensen, D. O. Corner; 1907, D. C. Chirstensen, Elmer Dyer; 1908, Charles Garmire, Louis Hansen; 1909, Ralzo Robinson, George Wever; 1910, George Garber; 1911, William Brandherst, Charles E. McLaughlin; 1912, Ira Miller, Ray McLaughlin; 1913, A. G. McMullen, D. O. Corner; 1914, Robert L. Clark, Ralzo Robinson; 1915, Frank R. McLaughlin.

Present membership, forty-eight.

Canterbury Bell Lodge, No. 506, Daughters of Rebekah. Charter dated December 9, 1900. Charter members: Theron B. Creveling, Mrs. Lou Creveling, William J. Lancelot, Phoebe A. Lancelot, J. A. Nelson, Horace B. Shelley, Mrs. H. B. Shelley, J. L. Nedrow, Anna Nedrow, Mollie E. Barger, Bertha Shelley, Clara Shelley, Thomas S. Wilson, Maggie E. Wilson, Charles Tucker, Walter J. Andas, Jennie Andas, Henry F. Wolf, Jr., William Z. Scott, L. E. Edwards, J. C. Hensch, Tillie Hensch.

These ladies have held the office of noble grand: Phoebe Lancelot, Lou Creveling, Marguerite Wilson, Jennie Audas, Eva Beers, Anna Nedrow, Bertha Shelley, Lizzie Heff, Cora McLaughlin, Mable Barger, Ella Denton, Sadie Denton, Myrtle Corner, Ella Forsbeck, Cora Weaver, Matilda Jensen, Grace Cameron, Nettie Wernig, Lillian Farrell, Mary Wever, May I. McLaughlin, May Shingledecker, Marie Jensen, Gayetta Farrell, Jessie Barber, Bessie Bunker.

Present membership, thirty-nine.

Gray Camp No. 2952, Modern Woodmen of America. Chartered May 9, 1895. Charter members: Lawrence A. Beers, R. D. Henderson, Frank P. Huffman, Lovell Estes, A. Kitson, J. F. Benson, J. A. Campbell, Fred C. Hepp, Oliver Bicknor, Samuel F. Garmire, Frank R. McLaughlin, George Chamberlin, W. A. Dewitt, Charles Rogers, James Barnack, Frank Ginthers, J. J. Stuart, A. B. Comstock, Harlan Kennells, D. H. Steere, William J. Lancelot.

ORGANIZATIONS AT HAMLIN.

Hamlin Lodge No. 256, Danish Brotherhood in America. Chartered March 25, 1907. Charter members and first officers: Niels A. B. Jensen, ex-president; Peter J. Juel, president; Vilh Olsen, president; Jens F. Petersen, secretary; Jorgen R. Petersen, treasurer; Olaf N. Olsen, Fredrick C. P. Nissen, John E. Tvenstrup, trustees; Carl C. Tvenstrup, conductor; Rasmus Nielsen, inner guard; Fred Christensen, outer guard.

These members have held the office of president: Peter J. Juel, Peter N. Olsen, N. J. Jensen, Fredrick C. P. Nissen, Jacob Andersen, Johan Petersen.

Present membership, twenty-seven.

ORGANIZATIONS AT KIMBALLTON.

Fremad Lodge No. 21, The Danish Brotherhood in America. Chartered May 13, 1913. Charter members: P. J. P. Kelgor, Anders Hansen, Rasmus Broker, Laurids Theodor Jensen, Oscar E. T. Hartel, Ole Jansen, Lars Rasmussen, Lars Peter Nielsen, Knud Jorgensen Petersen, Conrad Nielsen, Johannes Vester.

These have held the office of president: Jens J. P. Kelgor, Rasmus Broker, Andrew Hansen.

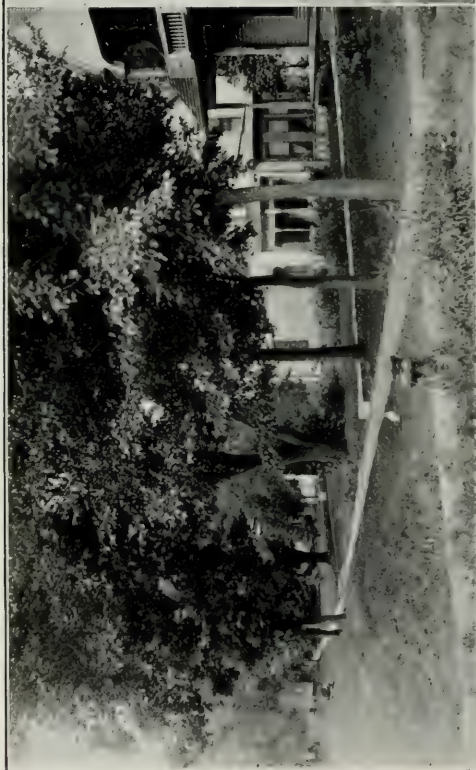
CHAPTER XVIII.

TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

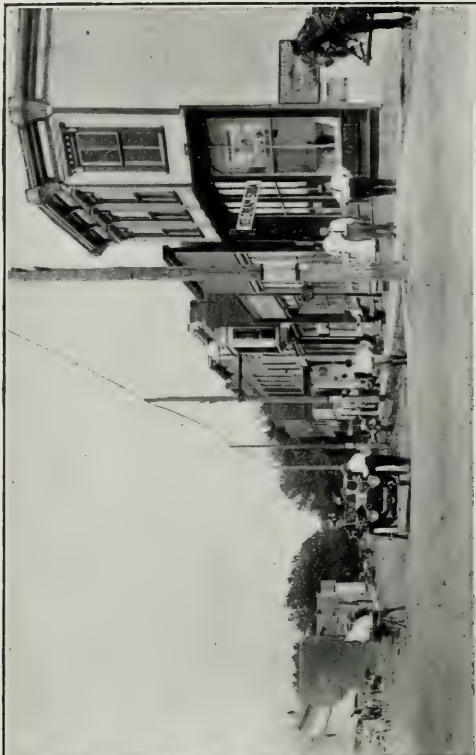
EXIRA.

Exira is the oldest town that has survived in the county. It was laid out on lot 16 and the south one-fourth of lot 9, in section 4, Exira township, comprising fifty acres of clean prairie. Its location was all that could have been desired, being situated on a beautiful elevated bench, half a mile east from the fork of David's creek, with the Nishua Botna river, with groves up to the very borders of the town. It was surveyed and platted by Peoria I. Whitted, under direction of David Edgerton and Judge Daniel M. Harris, on the land of Mr. Edgerton, who owned a large tract of the adjoining premises. Judge Harris is entitled to credit for founding the town and was owner of the unrecorded, undivided half of the enterprise. It was first intended that its name should be Viola, after a daughter of Mr. Edgerton, but Judge John Eckman, from Ohio, a kinsman of the Cranes, being here at the time, proposed to buy a lot if the proprietors would name the town after his daughter, Miss Exira Eckman, which was accordingly done. The name is of Spanish origin. One cause for the foundation of the town was that the Dodge route for the railroad was surveyed through the town site. It proved an *ignis fatuus*, which lured many people, first and last, to settle in the vicinity, and the influence continued down to the time of building the railroad, 1878.

The town had an auspicious opening by a sale of its lots at public auction. Mr. Harris cried the sale, and the proceeds for the first day aggregated one thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars. It was easily the leading town in the county from its start, and held its prestige against all comers until the town of Audubon succeeded to the honor in 1879. Mr. Edgerton reserved all of block 4 for his homestead, and Judge Harris reserved block 8 for a like purpose for himself and erected thereon his dwelling house, the first in town. This was quickly succeeded by the erection of dwellings the same year by John R. Thacker, Franklin Hobbs, A. B. Houston and David Edgerton. During the succeeding year a commodious school



North Street
North Side Washington Street



South Side Washington Street
City Park



VIEWS IN EXIRA



NORTH SIDE OF WASHINGTON STREET, EXIRA.

house was erected (see sketch of Hon. Daniel M. Harris). A hotel was built by Palmer Rodgers, and other residences were erected by Charles Chapin, Zel Edgerton, Asa Haskins, William Nelson and Urbane Herrick. A workshop was also built by Mr. Harris, but was soon converted into an office.

In 1859 other residences were erected by Harriet McGinnis, William Pangburn, William Bush, Doctor Ham, and perhaps others. Deacon Lyman Bush came here in 1857 and purchased the residence built by his son-in-law, Franklin Hobbs. He was the shoemaker. Daniel Crane and his sons, David L. Anderson, Bryant Milliman and Levi B. Montgomery lived near the town. Crane and Anderson were blacksmiths. Palmer Rodgers came in 1856 and built the hotel the following year, on the south side of block 2, which he sold to Franklin Burnham, and moved away. Burnham sold to Stillman H. Perry and moved away; Perry kept the hotel until about 1872, and was succeeded by Mrs. Mattie I. Luccock until 1874. About 1875, it was occupied by William P. Hamlin. The old house and barn were torn down as early as 1879.

POSTMASTERS.

David L. Anderson was the first postmaster of Exira, before the town was laid out. The subsequent postmasters have been: Daniel M. Harris, Franklin Burnham, Carlos E. Frost, John D. Bush, Benjamin F. Thacker, Caleb Bundy, George Hardenbrook, W. A. Mills, William Millerman, David Workman, Hugh W. Copeland, John B. Connrardy, Ernest D. Powell and B. F. Kreamer.

EARLY PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS MEN.

Judge Harris was the first lawyer in the county, as well as in Exira, and was county judge from 1856 to 1861, inclusive. See sketch and mention of him in other parts of this work.

Peoria I. Whitted settled at Exira when the town was started, and lived there the remainder of his life. He was county surveyor many years; surveyed several of the towns and additions thereto; also, many of the county roads; retraced the lines of the original surveys and subdivided large areas of the lands in the county and in adjoining counties. No surveyor of Audubon county ever did more of such kind of work.

Darius Barlow kept merchandise for sale in his dwelling house (the old Pangburn house), on the northwest corner of block 11. He was a boisterous character, but a stout Union man, who refused to sell ammunition to Southern sympathizers in war times.

Carlos E. Frost was county treasurer and lived in Exira in 1864-5. William P. Hamlin came to Exira in 1860 and bought the residence of Judge Harris. (See personal sketch of him elsewhere in this work).

About 1864 A. B. Houston brought a good line of merchandise and kept store in a shanty on the site of the Millie Hash residence in block 12; and continued the business with some changes until 1870, his son, Henry, and John R. Thacker being associated in the business part of the time. During the period from 1866 to 1869, inclusive, Mr. Houston was county treasurer; county judge during 1862-3; deputy clerk of court, 1865. From 1856 to about 1866 he was associated with Nathaniel Hamlin a portion of the time in the real estate agency. He did the largest business in the county from 1865 to 1870, and was agent for a large amount of lands, including the business of the American Emigrant Company, who had many sheep let out in Audubon, Cass and Shelby counties. He had by far the best business opportunities of any man in Exira up to his time, but was not equal to the demand, and let it slip through his fingers. He lost heavily by extending credit in his business. In 1870 he built the Houston house, on the site of the present Park hotel, conducted it for several years, and sold out. It burned down and on the same spot a new hotel was erected, which is now standing. Several men engaged in the blacksmith business in a small way for a dozen years. In 1860, Abram Campbell came here from Wisconsin and started a good blacksmith shop; and in connection with it, a wagon and repair shop, conducted for several years by John Cannon and Luke Knapp. Campbell was succeeded, about 1879, by John Hicks. Many others have since engaged in the business.

In 1865 John D. Bush, who was a Massachusetts Yankee, kept goods for sale in a rented house used as a residence. In 1866 he put up a good-sized store building, with residence attached, on the northeast corner of block 6, where he kept the best and largest assorted stock of merchandise in the county up to that time. His boots and shoes and codfish were unexcelled, and he was postmaster. He hauled his goods mostly from Des Moines by teams, and Charley Van Gorder was his clerk and was the drawing card in the concern. He sold out in 1873-4 to Harris Brothers, and they sold, in 1875, to Stotts & Houston, who moved to West Exira in 1879.

The old store burned down in 1899, and the present building was erected by James F. McAninch.

About 1858 a one-story building, about sixteen feet square, was built by Judge Harris for a shop, on block 8, and used by him for an office a short time. It was sold to the county and moved to the east side of the public square, where it was used for the county offices, and where the county records were kept until 1874. The county then owned no other building, and the courts were held in the school house.

On September 1, 1873, A. B. Hanston, John A. Hallock, A. Campbell, Charley Van Gorder, John D. Bush and P. I. Whitted executed a bond to Audubon county in the sum of five thousand dollars binding themselves to furnish a building for courts and county offices free, so long as the county seat should remain at Exira. Early the next year the Exira Hall Company was incorporated, and sold its stock sufficient to erect a building to be used for court house and county offices, which was built on the southwest corner of block 1, at the cost of over two thousand two hundred dollars. The same building is now owned and occupied by the Knights of Pythias lodge. It was occupied by the county until the county seat was removed to Audubon in 1879.

PROPOSED COURT HOUSE.

On September 1, 1871, the board of supervision appropriated six thousand nine hundred and forty-eight dollars for the erection of a court house at Exira, and a tax of four mills was levied for that purpose. Plans were gotten out and brick were bought from Van Gorder and heaped up in big piles on the public square preparatory for erecting the building. Then a court house fight began. The supervisors were enjoined from building the house, and on January 18, 1873, the case was settled, the injunction acquiesced in, and the court house tax refunded, all of which involved several law suits, and which ended the building of a court house at Exira.

H. F. Andrews, in 1873, built the first brick building erected in Audubon county. It was built for an office and was eighteen by forty feet in size, and was located on block 6.

In 1876 the trees were planted in the public park, being donated by Alfred E. Bartlett and Thomas Walker. The plan was laid out by H. F. Andrews and Samuel D. Harn.

John A. Hallock was admitted to the bar in 1863, but never practiced. In 1868 John W. Scott, a lawyer, came here from Bloomfield, Iowa, and, in connection with the office of clerk of the district court, to which he was

elected in 1868, practiced his profession. In 1871-2 he was in charge of the Hamlin Town Company, and put up a vigorous fight to change the county seat to Hamlin, but met with signal defeat. In 1869 Daniel W. Scribner and John M. Griggs were admitted to the bar in Exira and formed a partnership with H. F. Andrews in the law and real estate business. Scribner withdrew from the firm the same year. In 1870 H. F. Andrews was admitted to the bar and a law partnership formed by Andrews & Griggs, which continued until October, 1873; during which period they established a lucrative business and had an extensive acquaintance.

In 1872, J. M. Rendleman, M. D., came here from Atlanta, Ga., and at once established an extensive practice. He still resides here, but lived several years in Audubon. Charles H. Andrews, M. D., a popular physician, settled here in 1875. He died in 1896, regretted by a wide acquaintance. John Riley, M. D., came in 1880, and John C. Newlon, M. D., in 1893. Both live here at present, in regular practice. Charles Van Gorder, Esq., is deserving of more than passing notice. (See sketch of him elsewhere in this work and in the chapter on political parties.) He came here by way of Missouri, in red hot abolition times, during the Kansas-Nebraska troubles. He was an utter stranger and some speculation was indulged as to his business in coming here. "Uncle Natty" Hamlin was suspicious and did not fancy him, and volunteered the opinion: "I can tell what he is; he is a ganned nigger stealer, sir!" But Charley was clear of any such imputation. He found employment with "Billy" Nelson in the brick yard at Exira.

AN UNAPPRECIATED JOKE.

Perk Smith tells of a good incident which happened at that time. Nelson was burning a brick kiln, and some of the boys met there one evening, John R. Thacker among them. It was suggested that the fires in the kiln offered a fine opportunity to roast chickens. Thacker was in for it, and suggested that Deacon Bush had some chickens which would be just the thing. He proposed that some of the boys should procure the chickens and that he and Van Gorder would prepare the mud for roasting them. The process consists in covering the chicken, feathers and all, with a casing of soft clay, and placing the mass in a hot fire until cooked. It is then removed from the fire, the crust of clay, feathers and skin removed, leaving a toothsome morsel, which can hardly be excelled by any other style of the culinary art. The boys returned with a sackful of chickens, which were cooked a la proper, and the feast was enjoyed. Thacker was merry over

it, and wondered what the deacon would say in the morning upon missing his chickens. But the event never happened. When Thacker went to his own chicken house it was empty! He considered himself the victim of a dirty, unpardonable trick, and treated his late companions with unmitigated scorn and contempt. He failed to see the beauty of the joke.

In 1862 Van Gorder enlisted in the Thirty-ninth Iowa Infantry as a private, and served in the Western Army. He participated in the battle of Altoona Pass, under the gallant General Corse, where he was wounded. He filled all offices up to captain in his company, was discharged at the close of the war, and returned to Exira in 1865. In 1866 he made a freight-trip to Denver with ox teams and returned. Afterwards he was a brickmaker in Exira on his own account. During 1867 to 1869, inclusive, he was clerk in the store of John D. Bush, at Exira.

After serving four years as county treasurer, 1870-3, he organized the Audubon County Bank at Exira, the first banking house in the county, and has continued in the business to the present time.

MUNICIPAL ITEMS.

Exira was incorporated on December 13, 1880. These have been mayors of the town: John R. Ridge, 1881; David L. Anderson, 1881; Erwin Watson, 1881; Richard W. Griggs, 1882; John B. Connrardy, 1883-4; A. B. Houston, 1885; Joseph E. Toft, 1886-9; Charles T. Wilcutt, 1890-1; James P. Lair, 1892; Isaac L. Statzell, 1893-4; Van B. Hellyer, 1895; Charles T. Breniman, 1896-8; C. A. Marlin, 1900-1; George F. Kapp, 1902-3; Leroy J. Oldaker, 1903; H. F. Andrews, 1904-5; Charles E. Nichols, 1905; John O. Howard, 1906-7; Nels Hansen, 1908-9; John H. Rendleman, 1910-11; T. M. Rassmussen, 1912-15.

Houston's addition was laid out by A. B. Houston on September 2, 1878, on lot 15, section 4, Exira township.

West Exira was laid out by H. F. Andrews, William F. Stotts, Henry B. Houston, John M. Griggs and L. C. Van Hook, on March 29, 1879, and is situated on lots 5, 6, 11 and 12, in section 4, Exira township.

Exira Heights was laid out by U. S. Herrick, James F. McAnnich and Edwin Delahoyde, on March 13, 1894, on lot 12, section 3, and lot 9, section 4, Exira township.

Gates' addition was laid out by J. E. and J. G. Gates on July 9, 1894, on lot 13, section 3, Exira township.

On May 11, 1887, a big fire destroyed the buildings on the south side

of block 3, Exira, the main business street, which was rebuilt with remarkable rapidity and replaced by brick business houses.

SCHOOLS.

The schools of Exira, from the beginning, have been justly celebrated for excellence. Their early equipments, while not equal to present conditions, were up to the standard of neighboring pioneer facilities. The first school house, twenty-four by thirty feet in size, was built in 1858. The seats, of different lengths, were clumsy furniture, made of stout, dressed walnut plank, with open rail backs of the same material. The desks, of the same material, were huge, four-posted boxes, with hinged tops, and were not fastened to the floor. The manufacturers were supposed to have been Judges Harris and Houston, and, like the fellows dancing, if not pretty, they were strong. The house was remodeled and has been used as a dwelling for many years, on its original site.

In 1871 four thousand dollars had been appropriated for a brick school house at Exira. But, by some kind of shuffling on the part of the school officers, the first warning that Exira people had, a contract was let to John Cannon for the erection of a frame school house at the cost of two thousand three hundred dollars. It was clear that Exira had been tricked out of their brick school house. A two-story, two-room pine box was erected on the present school house premises. It was not a thing of beauty, nor a joy.

In 1884 the school house was enlarged by the erection of an imposing two-story edifice of six rooms, adjoining and in front of the former building, at the cost of three thousand five hundred dollars. It was fairly suitable for the town schools until recent years. It was torn down and removed in 1915, after the erection of the present new school house.

During the year 1914-15, additional ground was procured, and a new brick school house, fifty-nine by ninety-nine feet, two stories and basement, was erected and equipped, at a cost of thirty-eight thousand dollars. It is modern in every detail; equipped with steam heating system, thermostatic ventilation, waterworks, and fire hose, fire escapes, fire alarm and electric lights, telephone, sanitary drinking fountains, bath rooms, closets and wardrobes. It contains boiler room, with coal and ash bins; engine room; a gymnasium in the basement, thirty-two by sixty feet, eighteen feet high; domestic science room, with dining room and pantry attached; manual training room; assembly room; seven grade class rooms and three recitation rooms; superintendent's office, library, laboratory, rest rooms and lunch

rooms. The school grounds are ample, with agricultural building in the rear. Also there is a septic tank in the rear for receiving the sewer drainage from the building. School experts pronounce it the best-appointed and equipped school house of its size in the state at this time.

The corps of instructors consist of a superintendent and nine subordinate teachers. The payroll for the present year is \$6,500. In addition to being a fully accredited high school, it has been designated a teacher's training school by the state superintendent of public instruction, and, as such, receives state aid of seven hundred and fifty dollars a year. Non-resident pupils are in attendance annually. The number of such pupils for 1914-15 was thirty-seven. The total number of pupils enrolled for the current year is two hundred and sixty-five.

The independent district of Exira embraces the west half of section 2, all of section 3, all of section 4, except the south half of the southwest quarter, and the west half of the northwest quarter of section 10, all in Exira township.

About 1879-80, Professor Wilcutt, who was then principal of the school, prepared a plan for grading the school and a course of study applicable to the work. The school board, then consisting of George Hardenbrook, William J. Harris, Dr. James M. Rendleman, Hon. John A. Hallock and H. F. Andrews, made the proper order establishing the various grades for the school, also the course of study, in harmony with the recommendation of Professor Wilcutt.

The teachers employed from the first have been usually of good ability and their efficiency advanced in harmony with the public demand. Those who have been in charge of the school have been: Louis Harvout, Edwin S. Hill, Mary Crane, David B. Beers, George S. Montgomery, Benjamin F. Thomas, John A. Hallock, Beulah Sylvester, Samuel E. Smith, Daniel W. Scribner, John M. Griggs, Charles H. Andrews, Charles D. Gray, George Lindsey, A. E. Clarendon, Harmon G. Smith, George I. Miller, ——— Curtis, Charles F. Wilcutt, Carl Ross, David P. Repass, Elva Thompson, W. H. Fort, William H. Brinkerhoff, John M. Crocker, Louie Sorensen, Charles W. Johnson, John L. Conger, P. M. Hersom, Fred A. Sims, B. J. Gallagher, Helen Carson, J. L. Harper, William H. Hoyman.

It is impossible at this time to even name the subordinate teachers. Among them were Mrs. Beulah Sylvester and Mrs. Margaret J. Roseman, who should be remembered with affection and gratitude for their untiring efforts to assist the boys and girls who attended under their instruction.

THE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI.

For most years beginning with 1889, the high school has graduated a class, to whom regular diplomas have been issued. The following is a list of graduates to the present time:

1889. Jessie M. Shaw.

1891. Thomas Dustin, Frank Shranger, Fred Gates, Verna Croy, Rosa Powell.

1892. Walter Marietta, Roxie Huyck, Charlie Gates, Louie Welch.

1893. Ross Hardenbrook, Anna Carpenter, Gertie Gates, Trola Born, Beth Henry.

1894. Anna Hanson, Margaret McNally, B. F. Kreamer, Will Anders, Edna McAfee, Charles Kommes.

1895. Nettie Bruner, Cecelia Peterman, Edith Davis, Stella Master-son, Florence Rathburn, Florence Hill, Chalmer Sturgeon.

1896. Hattie Huyck, Ola Williams, William Deweese.

1897. Albert Guidinger, Samuel Hicks, Connaught D. Hunter, Frank Guidinger, Peace Hayes, Kittie Jobs, Charles Fulton, Randall Hunter, Grove Rathburn.

1898. Harriet Jenkins, Jennie Bennett, Ella McNally, Lee McAninch, Will Wissler.

1899. Ethel Riley, Ethel Hicks, Rose Faust, Lucille Connrardy, Myr-tle Hellyer.

1900. Maude Campbell, Amy Conger, Eva Tulbert, Berta Gano, Susie Huyck, Lester Peterman.

1902. Martha Bruner, Lillian B. Dyer, Kathryn Connrardy, Florence E. McAnnich, Gretchen Delahoyde, Zilpha M. Gault, Otto Born.

1903. Elizabeth Jones, Grace West.

1904. Kathleen Delahoyde, Charles E. Herrick, Harold Sturgeon.

1905. Mertie Bruner, Gertie Bruner, Bessie Ide, Grace Hensley, Bertha Young, Lucile Herrick.

1907. Grace Huyck, Elsie Hunt.

1908. Delia Hicks, Mabel Hall, Ruth Statzell.

1909. William A. Nelson, Charles I. Ide, Pluma Freeman.

1910. Carrie Gault, Mary Powell.

1911. Dena Hensley, Muriel Koob, Ora Hicks, Ellowene Dimick, Ethel Bisom, Winnie Heath, Florabelle Houton, Frank Hall.



OLD SCHOOL HOUSE, EXIRA, BUILT IN 1858; REMODELED FOR DWELLING.



NEW SCHOOL HOUSE, EXIRA, 1915.



DEACON LYMAN BUSH HOUSE, EXIRA, BUILT IN 1857. MAIN BUILDING IS
THE ORIGINAL HOUSE.

1913. Flora Rendleman, Geraldine Rendleman, Dena Nelson, Vivian Heath.

1914. Mary Lamsen, Kathleen Hunt, Alice Hay, Kathryn Thielen, Harvey Jensen, Norman Hensley.

1915. Mabel Ide, Leila Kline, Goldie Chase, Agnes Nelsen, Madea-line Essington, Mrytle Grinyer, Genevieve Wright, Marie Freeman, Frank Dimick, Henry K. Petersen, Theodore Nelsen.

EXIRA NOTABLES.

Some of the prominent people who have lived in Exira, not otherwise mentioned in this work, have been: Jacob Andrews, Nathan W. Andrews, Will E. Andrews, Albert C. Andrews, Free Anders, L. E. Born, Henry T. Bush, W. H. Bowman, Jo. Chase, George Chase, A. L. Campbell, William Carpenter, Enoch Croy, John Crane, Samuel Crane, John G. Gates, Stephen Gano, Henry B. Houston, John Hicks, Urbane Herrick, Julius M. Hubbard, Charles O. Hunt, George Hunt,, Hans P. Hansen, Nathaniel D. Hamlin, Charles C. Hawk, Samuel D. Harn, J. D. Herrick, Perry Hansen, Nels Hansen, Charles Houston, A. W. Harvey, V. B. Hellyer, W. E. Brinkerhoff, N. P. Christensen, George W. Guernsey, Frank Gault, Richard Gault, John Gray, Xerxes Knox, Peter Kommes, Charles Kommes, William Kommes, Luke Knapp, Noel Jobs, W. J. Lancelot, John Mertes, Daniel W. Miller, James F. McAnninch, Bryant Milliman, Charles Milliman, John Noon, George Paige, Ernest D. Powell, Theodore Patty, John Peterman, James B. Rendleman, William C. Sturgeon, Isaac Statzell, Samuel Smith, Hendrick R. Smith, Thomas Walker, William Walker, Otto Witthauer, Fred Wahlert, George Wahlert, William F. Stotts, Jo. Gearheart, Andrew J. Leffingwell, Nick Thielen, Francis J. Shraner, John S. Toft, James Holli-day, James Willox, John Nelsen, Erwin Watson, Lester Gransberry, Perry Bateman, George W. Bailey, W. R. Bruner, Joseph H. Bell, W. R. Cope-land, Hiram H. Dimick, William H. Seavey, Peter Tharnish.

Some of the best residences in Exira are those of Eugene C. Wilson, Ed. Cotton, James Channon, Mrs. Alice Connrardy, William H. Voss, Ernest B. Voss, Fred H. Cotton, Dr. Leroy J. Oldaker, John I. Hensley, John M. Dimmick, Edwin Delahoyde, William Bintner, Henry and Lena Bush, John H. Randleman, Otto Witthauer, Hans P. Petersen, Dr. John Riley, Lars P. Christensen, William E. Varney, Chris. Jacobsen, Dr. J. C. Newlon, Perry Hansen, P. M. Christensen, Mrs. Lissa Gault, Mrs. Charles Klever, Mrs. Jens Jepson, Nels Hansen, George Milliman, Frances L. Voss.

OFFICIAL AND BUSINESS DIRECTORY, 1915.

Population, eight hundred and thirty-seven.

Mayor, T. M. Rasmussen; town clerk, George C. Corl; marshal, Roy McLain; assessor, Robert C. Watterson; justice of the peace, James P. Lair; constable, John C. Coe; postmaster, Frank A. Kreamer; mail carriers, Frank Basham, Ad Seibert, James Hicks, Harry Hockenberry, Andrew C. Jensen; principal of school, William H. Hoyman.

Attorneys—H. F. Andrews, T. M. Rasmussen.

Clergymen—Catholic, Rev. Father John Mayer; Congregational, Rev. Jessie Getty; Methodist, Rev. Henry P. Grinyer; Christian, Rev. Charles S. Linkletter; Lutheran, Rev. Peter Rasmussen.

Physicians—J. M. Rendleman, John Riley, John C. Newlon, Robert A. Jacobsen; dentist—Leroy J. Oldaker; railroad agent—W. O. Griffith; Iowa Telephone—Ola Willis; electrician—Louie Petersen; veterinary surgeon—Roy A. Lantz. Banks—Exchange Bank, Edwin Delahoyde, cashier; First National Bank, James M. Carlson, cashier; land agents—John H. Rendleman, J. B. J. Lohner, Lawrence Hansen, Lee McAnninch; insurance agents—Theodore Patty, A. W. Harvey; life insurance—Albert C. Andrews; druggists—Nels Hansen, Exira Drug Co.; general stores—Ed Cotton, Hans P. Petersen, Erke Brothers, A. L. Hamon; grocer—Fred H. Cotton; hardware—John Nelson, William E. Varney; variety store—Peter R. Jorgensen; meat market—Peter Hassenfeldt; grain elevator—Herman Barnholdt; creamery—Exira Creamery Company, Chris Petersen; produce—Exira Produce Company, George W. McNary; agricultural implements—Kommes Brothers; harness makers—Jack W. Alsup, Hans Miller; livestock dealers—Hensley & Dimick; Livestock and grain—Exira Co-Operative Co., W. F. Williams; oil—Standard Oil Company, Mike Harned; hotel—Park Hotel, Mrs. D. V. Wright; boarding houses—Mrs. Stella Gearhart, Noel Jobs; restaurant—Mrs. Susan Spoo; cafe—Wagner Brothers; jeweller—Peter M. Christensen; lumber—Green Bay Lumber Company, Merle R. Terhune, manager; Fullerton Lumber Company, H. P. Hansen, manager; liveryman—Daniel Branstater; garage—Hans P. Hansen, Wesley Donaldson, Johnson & Westphalen; auto repair shop—Nelson & Phillips; machinists—Exira Auto and Machine Works, P. K. Jensen; blacksmiths—Andrew A. Andersen, Nels L. Beck; lightning rods—John Miller; contractor and builder, and planing mill—George C. Voss; Palace Theater, Joe Meurer; undertaker—George L. Gore; billiard hall—Hunt Brothers; dressmakers—

Amber Kelsey, Mrs. Cannon; pantitoriam—Earl Thomas; shoemakers—David Workman, Gerald Hensley, Hans Miller; coal dealers—George B. Gill, Mrs. Keziah Pesing, Peter Goode; masons—Joseph Gearheart, Jack Hinckle, George Leffingwell, Frank Leffingwell; carpenters—Robert C. Watterson, Ad Watterson, Grant Jones, William H. Voss, Charles C. Johnson, William Fulton, Thomas Murphy, Willis Hinkle, J. W. Kline; painters and paper hangers—Kirk Knox, William O. Scott, Frank Schmidt, A. M. Larsen, Walter Larsen, M. W. Nelsen, Robert L. Houston; barbers—Hugh Smith, Bishop & Statzell; popcorn—Roy Bolton; bus drivers—George Milliman, Joseph Shaw; draymen—Frank B. Heath, George Chase. L. H. Watson; house movers—Joe Chase, George Chase; Commercial Club, L. J. Oldaker, secretary; Exira Lady Boosters, Maude Oldaker, secretary; Thursday Club, Mrs. Dolly Newlon, president; Treble Clef, Mrs. Hattie Witthauer, president; Dressmaking College, Mrs. Alice Connrardy; tailor, A. Wolcott.

AUDUBON.

The town was laid out by the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad Company, on the southwest quarter of section 21, Leroy township, September 23, 1878. This land was claimed and squatted on as a homestead by one Edward Robinson. The growth of the town was phenomenal. It was promoted not only by the prestige of the railroad company, but also, among others, by the influence of Ethelbert J. Freeman and Capt. Charles Stuart, public-spirited gentlemen, who devoted their energies to building a town in the then wilderness. It started with an auction sale of its town lots on October 15, 1878; and the first day's sales aggregated six thousand one hundred and ninety dollars. Before night work was begun building business houses, which continued vigorously through the winter; and for several years afterward, and even to the present time, periodically.

Alex H. Roberts, who has since continuously lived at Audubon, and who attended that lot sale and then bought the lot upon which his store is now situated, on December 16, 1878, wrote to his home paper at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, an account of the new town of Audubon, describing its progress, conditions, prospects, etc. It is the best account of Audubon at that period yet found. Mr. Roberts wrote:

"When I first visited this place, October 15, the day the lots were first offered for sale, there was not a completed house in the place, and but three or four in course of erection. Today we have over fifty houses and the different businesses are represented about as follow: One bank, five general

stores, one jewelry store, two hotels, one restaurant, three meat markets, three blacksmith shops, one harness shop, one livery stable, two coal yards, two lumber yards, one elevator, three grain dealers, etc. A school house, twenty-two by thirty feet, was completed ten days ago, and school opened last Monday, with fourteen scholars and Bob Hunter, teacher. * * * The county seat is located at Exira, a village thirteen miles from here, near the south end of the county, and will, I think, without doubt, be removed to this place next fall. (Which proved to be prophetic.) Although it is now mid-winter and the mercury lingers near zero, yet the sound of the saw and hammer is to be heard on all sides, and only last week three large business houses were commenced, and I understand another banking house and hardware store, two-stories high, besides many smaller ones, are to be built this winter. * * * The railroad was completed December 6, and since that time not less than ten thousand bushels of corn have been hauled in here, and four carloads of wheat shipped. A depot twenty-four by one hundred feet is now being built."

A month later a local newspaper contained a flaming description of the new city:

"THEN AND NOW.

"Don't it beat the royal star spangled American! But a few short months ago, in the place where we now sit, encircled by all that exalts and embellishes civilized life (perhaps), the rank thistle nodded in the wind, and the wild polecat flipped his caudal appendage in the prairie grass, or words to that effect. Pshaw! We thought we were running a Sunday school paper in Exira! It is not often that we get sentimental! But what we started out to say is this: Less than four months ago we roamed around over this town plat, trying to trace out the streets and alleys by the short stakes planted a short time before in the high prairie grass. Not a building had been erected, and in fact there were no signs that any would be erected for some time to come. The grass had already been killed by the autumn frosts, and the cold wind betokened winter at hand. Nearly every one predicted that nothing would be attempted in the way of building until springtime. Today (January 22, 1879,) we are sitting in a handsome two-story building. In the rear room two presses are running, and their incessant click! click! click! announces that the 'art preservative' has found its way to the 'new town,' as it was then called. Around us are papers and books, in profusion, and several persons—strangers to us then—some reading, some talking; but all here to make a home. In front is a fine street, and scores of teams and busy people

hurrying to and fro; the iron horse is snorting and puffing beside a magnificent depot, and passengers are leaving the train and hurrying to hotels and other places. Half a dozen dray teams are hauling goods up the streets; the hotel bells are ringing to call the many new-comer guests to dinner; the sound of the tools used in nearly all trades can be heard; upward of a hundred buildings, many of them magnificent ones, adorn the town plat, and we see Audubon, then a naked tract of prairie, now a veritable and flourishing young city, the liveliest of its age in Iowa—as hundreds who see it every day freely admit. We venture the prediction that in one year from today the population of the place will reach nearly one thousand. And why not? It is tributary to, and will command, the entire trade of as beautiful country as the sun ever shone on, for a distance of fifteen miles, east, north and west, and about half that distance south.”

FIRST BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

During the winter of 1878-9 the following professional firms and business houses were established: Land agent—Ethelbert J. Freeman. Lawyers—Henry W. Hanna, Joseph L. Stotts, Melvin Nichols, Nash & Phelps, J. Mack Love, Frank M. Van Pelt, Matt Matthews, Benjamin F. Thacker, John H. Carroll, all from Exira; H. U. Funk, John W. McCord, J. O. Andrews, T. J. Reigart. Physicians—John D. Holmes, from Hamlin; Hugh Bell, John F. Cloughly, Joseph T. Breniman, Peter M. Sheafor, R. H. Brown. Jeweller—Elias W. Beghtol. Railroad agent—Ebenezer C. Brown. Hotels—D. H. Walker, from Exira; Reynolds House; Matthias & Gaylord, from Arcadia. Boarding house—John Steiner, from Carroll. Bank—Van Gorder & Whitney, from Exira. Drug stores—Alex. H. Roberts, from Mt. Pleasant; William Cloughly, from Mitchellville. General stores—Benjamin F. Howald, from Atlantic; E. H. Ryan, from Council Bluff; E. M. Funk; Wilson Burnside, from Carroll. Grocers—Gleason & Lundy, from Red Oak; J. F. Wells, from Anita; A. S. Hatch. Hardware—Martin & Keller, from Atlantic; Stephen H. Shryver, from Bloomington, Illinois. Furniture and undertaking—Horace Prentice, from Mechanicsville. Meat markets—Chester W. Wheeler, from Viola; Samuel Hunter, from Exira. Livery stable—Gardner & Baxter, from Arcadia. Harness maker—David E. Soar, from Exira. Shoemaker—John Both. Graindealer—Wilson Burnside, from Carroll. Grain, lumber, lime and coal—Charley Stuart & Son, from Neponset, Illinois. Lumber—A. A. Hubbard, from Atlantic. Coal and grain—Frank H. Burr, from Atlantic. Contractors and builders—J. H. Carruthers, H. C. Paul, P. McKinley. Drayman—James A. Pollett.

Saloons—Sanford Boatman, from Atlantic; John Frahm, from Davenport; J. E. Tucker, from Boone. Public buildings—Railroad depot, school house.

During the year 1879 the present court house was erected by the railroad company and its use was tendered to the county for five years free of cost, in case the county seat should be brought to Audubon. Charles Stuart & Son erected the finest brick office, for their extensive business, of the kind to be found in Iowa. At the general election the same year it was voted that the county seat be changed from Exira to Audubon, which was accordingly done.

The following new business interests were also established in 1879: Lawyers—John M. Griggs, from Exira; A. F. Bell. Dentist—Doctor Hoover. Hotels—E. Weston, J. H. Grant. Restaurant and bakery—Emil Bilharz, from Seneca, Illinois. Drug store—Joseph T. Breniman. Merchants—Lundy Brothers, C. Egbert, Elkanah S. Foster, John F. Consigney, Frank Gleason, Evan Davis, John H. Kate, Mallory & Jay, Noah Keller, Shryver & Mundy. Furniture—O. C. Jewett, W. H. Miller, Scott Brothers. Agent for implements—Williams & Morrow. Meat market—A. A. Zaner. Liverymen—I. N. Simpson, W. P. Gardner, Goodwin Thompson. Harness maker—Louis Tramp. Shoemaker—John Ott. Barber—Wilson D. Blackwood. Blacksmiths—Neil Ross, Keen & Jump, R. G. Sands, H. B. Wilson. Milliners—Mrs. Frank Gleason, Mrs. Newmire, Miss Donaldson. Photographers—T. B. Mendenhall, I. E. Hilsabeck. Grain dealer—George Gray, from Gray. Lumber dealer—H. Umphrey. Draymen—James Bennefield, Joseph Allee, A. H. Herring, Joseph Heath. Saloon—Henry Rohrbeck.

ROSTER OF VOTES.

List of men entitled to vote in 1879: George Atkinson, J. W. Bacon, F. A. Hacker, H. C. McMillan, Henry Welch, I. N. Simpson, Charles H. Tefft, J. T. Minor, J. H. Keese, J. H. Thompson, William Noel, J. H. Whitman, L. M. Anderson, N. R. Simpson, I. W. Baker, ——— Van Horn, John Ewing, Ed. Robinson, Henry McGuire, John Steiner, A. F. Loomis, George Frederick, John Hoffman, William Mallony, W. R. Collins, Wilson D. Blackwood, John Frahm, William Speas, Sylvester Ary, J. H. Gardner, M. T. Adams, John W. Griffin, Nick Roth, James Holland, Wilson Burnside, S. W. Smith, Daniel W. Matthias, John Gorner, Ed. McMahon, W. D. Bates, J. Bartlett, W. C. Heckendorn, A. M. Smith, J. C. Shutes, Arthur L. Sanborn, J. Schryver, J. H. Thorpe, J. H. Brayton, William J. Myers,

J. F. Wells, E. F. Fales, Frank Hobart, N. T. Fraker, Harry Collins, Charles Newmire, R. A. Chaplin, John Cartwright, A. A. Zaner, F. M. Ellis, Ed. B. Cousins, Frank H. Burr, J. D. Sleeper, J. F. Ford, E. M. Funk, William Hastings, H. A. Arnold, John Martin, Henry Atkeson, J. W. Pollett, Joseph L. Stotts, Henry Hester, Gideon Williams, H. G. Walters, M. W. Decker, M. D. Baily, Henry E. Cole, I. L. Dermond, C. C. Ellett, E. C. Honewell, James A. Scott, J. W. Lewis, I. P. Baker, W. Tulbert, J. O. Andrews, E. C. Meacham, H. H. Willis, J. F. Esty, Harry Loomis, Charles Buck, Michael Boust, J. T. Pryor, Samuel Hunter, James McVay, Hans Frahm, I. E. Hilsabeck, John Coquillett, Elisha Baxter, Neil Ross, John Schreck, John Holland, Mixe Loy, Ebenezer C. Brown, George Cox, A. C. Gaylord, H. C. Paul, Sylvester K. Landis, ——— Rutherford, P. Kearney, John C. Wilson, C. M. Maddox, O. W. Andrews, Stephen H. Schryver, Benjamin F. Thacker, ——— Eaton, Emerson H. Kimball, D. A. Railsback, Charles Knox, George S. Knox, J. C. Williams, J. E. Tucker, Henry Newmire, John Dunn, M. N. Marble, Charles Mesorve, George W. Ellis, Alex. Fowler, W. P. Clark, Chester W. Wheeler, H. U. Funk, George N. Funk, Lee Funk, Sammie P. Rhoads, Joseph Gaylord, Henry Engleking, J. H. Grant, J. W. Louder, P. McKinley, D. H. Walker, Robert M. Hubbard, Byron S. Phelps, A. F. Rogers, H. W. Van Gorder, Emiel Bilharz, T. V. Donovan, Louis Meyer, Benjamin F. Howald, Conrad Reinhart, D. F. Shocklin, William Cloughly, Frank Ewens, James Chandler, James McCanna, Evan Davis, Thomas C. Lundy, ——— Johnson, Daniel Lynch, C. G. Moore, Hiram M. Talbot, John Both, J. M. I. Bryan, Alex. H. Roberts, John D. Holmes, G. W. Newcomer, George Keene, James B. Elrod, Lewis Watson, Robert Cobean, Noah Keller, Del Graves, T. J. Reigart, David Newport, James Warke, Hugh Bell, J. A. Miller, Ethelbert J. Freeman, John F. Cloughly, E. Krollman, I. A. McKinney, S. W. McManegal, George W. Myers, Frank Gleason, William H. Scott, A. C. Lewis, Bruce Moore, Elias W. Beghtol, John Burnes, M. Dubois, James T. Bell, S. B. Johnson, L. Smith.

FATHER OF AUDUBON.*

While the town was laid out and owned, primarily, by the railroad company, the genius who presided over it, directed and promoted its rise and progress was Ethelbert J. Freeman. He was born at Flatwood, Pennsylvania, September 22, 1840, and was reared a farmer until sixteen years of age. In 1857 he went to McDonough county, Illinois, where he worked two years as a carpenter. He returned and remained in Pennsylvania one

year, and then went back to Illinois. On May 24, 1861, he enlisted from Vermont, Illinois, as a private in Company A, Sixteenth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served in the Second Brigade, Second Division, Fourteenth Army Corps, under Gen. John M. Palmer, and Generals Pope and Rosecrans. Mr. Freeman participated in the battles of Blue Mills, Island No. 10, Tiptonville, Farmington and Stone's River. He was discharged for disability, February 5, 1863, returned to McDonough county, and engaged in farming.

Ethelbert J. Freeman was married in McDonough county on September 23, 1862, to Nancy L., daughter of Daniel L. and Mary (Hamilton) Leighty. In 1867 he moved to Exira, and the following year settled on and improved a one hundred and sixty-acre farm in section 24, Leroy township. In 1878 he established his home in Audubon. He was justly styled "father of the town," if any one was ever entitled to such an appellation; and has been so regarded to the present time. He was first and foremost in most public, social and political affairs; at least one of the most popular men who ever lived in the county. His influence was extensive and controlling in many ways. He was prominent in the incorporation of the town, and was its first mayor, without a dissenting vote; and was very efficient in establishing the schools at Audubon. He was agent for the sale of the railroad lands and the town lots; assisted in the establishment of lodges; the Grand Army post, the band and drum corps, the fire department, county fair; and in installing the water works and the electric light plant.

Mr. Freeman was county treasurer in 1882-5. Andrew F. Armstrong and Mr. Freeman were owners of the Citizens Bank from 1885 to 1893. For many years Mr. Freeman was manager of the waterworks and electric light plant; chief of the fire department; member of the band and drum corps. He was a member of Veritas Lodge No. 392, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Amity Chapter No. 92, Royal Arch Masons; Godfrey Commandery No. 44, Knights Templar; Allison Post No. 34, Grand Army of the Republic.

At the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, at Minneapolis in 1906, Mr. Freeman was elected president of the National Association of Civil War Musicians, and was afterward annually re-elected until the encampment at Rochester, New York, 1911, when he was elected to the same office for life. This is an unique society, composed of veteran drummers, fifers, buglers and bandmen, of the Civil War, from all over the United States; who play the same old tunes after which the Union soldiers marched from 1861 to 1865. Mr. Freeman has marched with his



Main Street, East
North Side Broadway



South Park Street
Main Street, West



VIEWS IN AUDUBON





BRICK AND TILE WORKS, AUDUBON



CANNING FACTORY, AUDUBON

musicians at the head of the parade at every National Encampment from Denver, in 1905, until the present time.

THE STUART FAMILY.

Another prominent patron of the town was Capt. Charles Stuart. He was born in West Barnet, Vermont, June 7, 1826. On December 23, 1852, he was married to Lois Gray, of Ryegate, Vermont. He was reared a farmer. In 1848 he established a general store at South Ryegate. In 1855 he went to Chicago, where he was employed by Fairbanks & Company, the famous scale manufacturers. During the same period he opened a farm in Elmira township, Stark county, Illinois, near Neponset, which he owned until after coming to Audubon county. He was founder of the town of Stuart, Iowa, where he was a large landowner, and conducted an extensive business. Before the town of Audubon started he and his son, William G. Stuart, were owners of several thousand acres of the best farm lands in Audubon county, which they put under a high state of cultivation; stocked it with horses, cattle, hogs, etc., and conducted farming on an extensive scale. Charles Stuart was captain of Company B, Nineteenth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He enlisted on July 30, 1861; resigned July 15, 1862. He was full of activity, progressive, public spirited, and generous. His name stood foremost as a business man in Audubon county.

To Ethelbert J. Freeman, Capt. Charles Stuart, the railroad company and the Audubon newspapers was largely due the credit for the removal of the county seat from Exira to Audubon.

Charles Stuart & Son were among the first and ablest promoters of the town. They were the leading dealers in grain, lumber, lime and coal, and erected the largest grain elevator in the county, and built one of the finest brick offices for that kind of business in the state of Iowa. They extended branches of the same kind of business to Exira, Gray, and other places in Iowa, outside of the county. Mrs. Lois Stuart was the most wealthy person who has lived in the county, and was the most generous patron of the Presbyterian church, at Audubon. Captain Stuart and his wife and their son, William G. Stuart, are all buried in the cemetery at Audubon.

EARLY OFFICERS.

The town was incorporated in 1886.

The following named men have served as mayor of Audubon: Ethel-
(18)

bert J. Freeman, J. Mack Love, John D. Holmes, Charles Bagley, Andrew F. Armstrong, Henry W. Hanna, Ransom L. Harris, John A. Nash, Robert C. Spencer, Halleck J. Mantz.

The first postmaster was Arthur L. Sanborn, appointed February 15, 1879, succeeded by Emerson H. Kimball, Elkanah S. Foster, Robert M. Carpenter, Ed. B. Cousins, William H. O'Connell, George B. Russell, Harper W. Wilson, Robert C. Spencer.

The Northwestern railroad came from Carroll, by way of Manning and Troy, to Audubon, in 1882.

The waterworks was established in 1882. Ethelbert J. Freeman was the superintendent for many years, and was succeeded by Benton L. Darnold, the present manager. The town is now supplied with water from an artesian well made in 1913-14, two thousand five hundred feet deep, at the cost of eleven thousand dollars.

The electric light plant was installed in 1891, by Ethelbert J. Freeman, and was transferred to Nancy L. Freeman in 1897. It was superintended many years by Mr. Freeman; and was transferred to W. G. Wieland, the present owner. It furnishes electric lights for the towns of Hamlin and Exira.

The business interests in 1888, were as follow: Attorneys—H. F. Andrews, John M. Griggs, H. W. Hanna, Nash, Phelps & Green, Henry U. Funk, A. F. Armstrong, Charles Bagley, E. H. Hurd, Frank E. Brainard, Theodore F. Myres, E. E. Byrum. Physicians—John D. Halmer, John F. Cloughly, Charles W. DeMotte, James M. Rendleman, Alfred L. Brooks. Jewellers—William H. O'Connell, William H. Cowles. Hotels—Walker House, Stuart House, Grant House, Weston House, Northwestern. Restaurant—William Rosenberg. Banks—Audubon County Bank, Commercial Bank, Citizen's Bank. Drug stores—Alex. H. Roberts, O. J. Houston, William Cloughly, John F. Cloughly. General stores—Russell & Son, Benjamin F. Howald, John Van Scoy, R. Lenox. Grocers—John F. Consigney, Frank Gleason, Emiel Bilharz, Fisher Brothers, Will D. Forbes, T. S. Francis, W. Talbot. Clothing—John H. Kate, Evan Davis, D. C. Abrams. Hardware—Jones & McKarahan, John Rinemund. Furniture—Scott Brothers, W. H. Miller. Boots and shoes—J. Forbes & Son. Millinery—Miss Dix, Miss Walker. Photographers—C. C. Harper, T. B. Mendenhall. Opera house—George B. Russell. Harness makers—David E. Soar, Harper W. Wilson. Shoemakers—John Ott, John Both. Blacksmiths—James Pound, George Keen, H. B. Wilson, H. A. Jump. Liverymen—Joseph P. Tharnish, Isham Brothers, Charles Benton. Meat Markets—Prather

Brothers, Doak & Company. Marble works—H. W. Van Gordon. Flour-mill—Kuhn, Culver & Company. Machinery and implements—McFarland, Dickey and Company, Clark H. Cross. Grain dealers—Charles Stuart & Son, George Gray, Wilson Burnside, Henry Gravesmuhl, Herbert & Johnson. Lumber dealers—Charles Stuart & Son, Green Bay Lumber Company. Brick yard—Charles Tramp.

HOMES IN AUDUBON.

Some of the best residences in Audubon are those of: Belle Arnold, Alex. H. Roberts, Charles Van Gorder, Charly S. White, Robert C. Spencer, William J. Laubender, Daniel L. Freeman, Charles Bagley, Joseph H. Ross, Alfred L. Brooks, George A. May, George W. Weighton, Ed. B. Cousins, Arthur Farquhar, Ed. S. Van Gorder, George W. Hoover, A. C. Harman, John Weighton, Frank O. Niklason, Mary Plaehn, John Ebert, Joseph Kopp, Lois Asby, Ed. F. Bilharz, A. S. Culver, T. H. Turner, R. G. Wieland, George W. Preston, Mr. Hermansen, Samuel A. Graham, J. J. Ruhs, Levi Kopp, John Wagner, Frank M. Rice, Ed. F. Johnson, C. L. Christinsen, Lewis C. Bagley, Charles Ping, Anna Fancher, George Scott, I. P. Hansen, Mike T. Foley, Ed. A. Bates, W. S. Hansen, M. O. Kingsbury, William Layland, Frank C. Miller, William G. Wilson, W. H. Cowles, William Berg, Elmer E. Bailey, Fred A. Buthweg, James E. Griffith, Charles Reynolds, F. S. Stone, C. H. Wilde, R. F. Childs, Fideler Schmidt, George Wever, P. A. Rasmussen, Ed. A. Beason, Sarah Munson, J. J. Haals, Owen Davis, Anthony N. Detwiler, Thomas J. Stafford, Samuel Weaver.

During the current year, 1915, the city is installing a substantial, up-to-date sewer system, at the cost of about thirty-five thousand dollars.

SCHOOLS.

The school system of Audubon is very satisfactory and up-to-date. The first school house was a one-story, wooden building, built in 1878, and now owned by John Graham, on Tracy street. Robert Hunter was the first teacher, 1878-9. He was succeeded by Kate Cameron.

At a special election held at Audubon, at five o'clock in the afternoon of May 31, 1879, with Elisha Baxter, Elias W. Beghton and M. H. Marble, judges, and Emerson H. Kimball, clerk; it was voted to organize the independent school district of Audubon, embracing sections 20, 21, 28, 29, south half of section 16, south half of section 17, south west quarter of section 15,

west half of section 22, and west half of section 27; all in township 80, range 35 west; by a vote of one hundred and seventeen to one.

At an election held at Audubon on July 5, 1879, the first board of directors of the independent district was elected, viz.: E. M. Funk, Thomas C. Lundy, Alex. H. Roberts, Noah Keller, Wilson Burnside and Frank H. Burr. The board met and organized on July 11, 1879, and selected Ethelbert J. Freeman, secretary, and Elias W. Beghtol, treasurer.

Late in 1879 or early the next year, the district completed a new wooden, two-story, four-room building, on the site of the present school house. George N. Funk was the next teacher, assisted by Sarah Dustin. George I. Miller was superintendent from 1882 to 1884, inclusive, probably. It is supposed that the school was graded under his superintendency. J. A. Hornberger was superintendent from about 1885 to 1887, inclusive. During his term a brick addition was erected in the rear of the former wooden structure, and the wooden front of the house veneered with brick. The first high school class was graduated under him in 1886.

In the fall of 1887, Z. T. Hawk became superintendent, and served four years. There were then eight school rooms and four hundred and sixteen pupils enrolled. The subordinate teachers were: Ella M. Stearns, Lura Beason, DeEtta Foster, Oma S. Yaggy, Emma Hawk, Ada Funk, E. H. Hurd, Miss S. E. Turner and Cora Ott.

Frank P. Hocker succeeded Mr. Hawk, in the fall of 1891, and served fourteen years. His assistants were: Miss S. E. Turner, Ella M. Stearns, Lura Beason, DeEtta Smith, Mrs. E. J. Brown, Vesta Baxter, Cora Ott, Ada Funk, Effie Rogers, Harriet Bilharz, Jennie F. Riggs, C. K. Lancelot, Miss Green, Miss Norris, Miss Culver, Miss Musson, Mrs. Rosemond, Miss Shellenberger, Miss Detwiler, Mrs. Buthweg, Mrs. Fish, Miss Lundy, Alta Crow, Miss Morrissey, Miss Wilson, Belle Lancelot, Eva Luce, Beulah Soar, Helen Dickinson, Mary Davis, Miss Doak, Orpha Baxter, Ella Hurd, Bertha Ferguson, Lillian Ott, Dora Larson, Elizabeth Carmichel, Frances Burns, Ada Kuhn, Mildred Smith, Vera Miles, Mae McIlvain.

In 1893, a new brick building of two rooms for a primary department was erected. During Mr. Hocker's superintendence the school became an accredited high school in the state.

In 1903 a new brick building was erected in place of the old veneered part of the former structure. The school house as then constructed gave very general satisfaction.

Frank J. Mantz succeeded Mr. Hocker in the fall of 1905 and served four years. His assistants were: Ella M. Stearns, Avis Gordon, Nellie

Wicker, Mable Keith, Anna Weaver, Ruby Patton, Elizabeth Harris, Fan Lilly, Nellie Tomkins, Miss Low, Miss Brown, Marie Wolff, Miss Yokum, Patience Ellett.

Harry P. Smith succeeded Mr. Mantz in the fall of 1909, and served until 1915. His corps of assistants have been: F. W. Johansen, Caroline Schictl; Isa Lighthall, Theo Vedder, Mable Keith, Mary Davis, Ella Hurd, Patience Ellett, Ethel Glass, Goldie Cozine, Marie Wolff, Sarah Edes, Maud McAllister, Jennie Cook, Mae McClure, Georgia Lloyd, Grace Hollway, Coleen Patterson, Helen Turner, C. E. Latterback, Bertha Ross, Carrie Berger, Lillian Stetzler, Lenore Buckner, Ella McGuire, Lura Preston, June Gray.

The kindergarten was added to the school system in 1909.

The high school was admitted to the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, in 1911. Fred W. Johansen is the present superintendent (1915) and the school now employs a corps of subordinate teachers. Beginning with the year 1886, the high school has subsequently, each year, graduated a class of students. The citizens of Audubon are now agitating the question of erecting a new high school building.

GRADUATES OF THE AUDUBON HIGH SCHOOL.

Class of 1886—Eva Freeman, Nellie Cole, James M. Graham.

Class of 1887—Bonnie Stotts, Mertie Gleason, Lena Rosenberg.

Class of 1888—Edwin Van Gorder, Edward Bilharz, Lillian Ott, Maggie Gleason.

Class of 1890—Vesta Baxter, William Oliver.

Class of 1891—Mary Davis, Mary DeMotte, Fred Gleason, Oscar Overholtzer, Pearl Roberts, Clara Blakeslee, Laura Musson.

Class of 1892—Samuel Yaggy, Agnes Wolf, Myrtle Wilson, Harriet Bilgarz, Frank Cross, Maggie DeMott, Mollie Delahoyde, Harry Dickinson, Laura Forbes, Roy Funk, Katie Overholtzer, India Poulson, Ralph Roberts, Myrtle Sharp, Lizzie Schreiber, Beulah Soar, Hettie Van Scoy.

Class of 1893—Mamie Baxter, May Bonwell, Gertrude Bonwell, Carrie Cooley, Irene Crocker, Will Cunningham, Sarah Holmes, Mabel Keith, Albert Mathias, Rosie Mendenhall, Jennie Oliver, Kittie Schrieber, Eva James.

Class of 1894—Jessie Andrews, Fred Blume, Orpha Baxter, Rena Carroll, Emma Culver, Patience Ellett, Ellis Harper, Earl Jump, Frank Mantz, Ethel Reese, Charles Bradley, Rose Sharp, Julia Wilson.

Class of 1895—Lena Drury, Ollie Fergusen, Charles Huntsburger, Gus Keith, Eva Luse, Bertha Mussen, Woods Soar.

Class of 1896—Will Baylor, Grace Creveling, Mae Schreiber, Myrtle Stotts, Charles Tramp, Nellie Wicker.

Class of 1897—Nelson Cowles, Dora Detwiler, Maude Doak, Bertha Fergusen, Frank Green, Edith Harris, Lillian Hays, Louis Roberts, Clara Luse, Loween Van Gorder, Anna Wever, George Wever.

Class of 1898—Myrtle Brown, Maurice Carpenter, Walter Haynes, Auda Kelly, Nora Oelke, Bodo Oelke, Harry Sampson, Irma Tharnish.

Class of 1899—Disy Anderson, Charles Burnside, Hugh Delahoyde, Orren Eddy, Frank Drake, Ada Kuhn, Alice Moon, William McFarlane, Roy Smith.

Class of 1900—Harvey Delahoyde, Don Drake, Wren Graham, Mabel Hays, Nora Hunt, John Lohner, Jessie Luse, Capitola Mathias, Grace Miller, Susie Musson, Alma Oelke, Lovise Overholtzer, Clarence Shingledecker, Mary Smith, Teresa Stanton, Edna Webster.

Class of 1901—Ruth Anderson, May Hoover, May Hunt, Charles Johnson, Wiliner Kester, Ethel Kuhn, Earl Maharg, Russell Mott, George Oelke, Eleanor Ohm, Mildred Smith, Gay Thomas.

No 1902 class because the course was lengthened to four years.

Class of 1903—Ray Dryden, John Horning, Isabelle McFarlane, Elmer McKarahan, Mamie Michaels, Frank Mott, Nettie Pearson, Matt Rippey, Frank Sampson, Edith Townsend, Harry Watts, Marie Wolff.

Class of 1904—Grace Cameron, John Cameron, Ruby Currier, Jason Imes, John Krick, Murtle Ross, Cora Sampson, Louis Watson.

Class of 1905—Franc Anderson, Anna Artist, Annetta Earhart, Curtis Earhart, Oliver Gardner, William Kile, Veda Masterson, Clara Oelke, Drusa Ross, Helen Walburn.

Class of 1906—Lucile Brooks, Clifford Brooks, John Donaldson, Alice Eddy, Ray Green, Martha Hubbard, Marion Jones, Mae Layland, Mabel McKarahan, Lena Pound, Bessie Rippey, Ruth Watson.

Class of 1907—Mae Johnson, Charles Watts, Belle Donaldson, Miles Gardner, Charles Nelson, Earl Kile, Frank McFadden, Louis Bagley, Jessie Hoover, Ethel Eckles, Lula Doak, Minta Eddy, Bonna Sherman, Thressa Gaston, Marie Adams.

Class of 1908—Inez Gates, Frank Hays, Augusta Hecker, Julius Hecker, Fred Jones, Grace Kibby, Bonna Jones, Wren Lane, Harry Laubender, Hazel Law, Agnes Lutwitze, Theo. Mantz, Fern Parnham, Garcia Swartz,

Augusta Tennigkeit, Faye Titterington, Bessie Watson, Anna Wilson, Bessie Harris.

Class of 1909—Fannie Ditzenberger, Anna Henriksen, Glen Hunter, Glen Johnson, Hazel Kellogg, Clyde Keith, Warren Leonard, Edith Leighty, Clara Lutwitz, Florence Marriott, Elloween Phelps.

Class of 1910—Clark Arnold, Simon Foley, Hazel Gates, March Jones, James Law, George Laubender, Edith Phelps, Julia Preston, Lela Zaner.

Class of 1911—Harley Boyer, Eugene Christensen, Alice Gardner, Daniel Hecker, Edward Heuerman, Iola Johnson, Olive Kopp, Gibson Law, Oliver Lovelace, Ruth Preston, Lula Sheets, Hazel Steere, Hazel Weldy, Leona Wilson.

Class of 1912—Frank Bagley, Alma Christensen, Elvin Cole, Lucile Culver, Lillian Foley, Lorraine Graham, Alice Kraus, Lorena Marriott, Ila McFadden, Edwin Preston, Blair Rice, Genevieve Roth, Effie Skinner, Eva Smith, Helen Ward.

Class of 1913—Emma Boust, Thomas Blake, Tressa Brady, Lorenzo Brooks, Mildred Buck, Ava Buthweg, Helen Conway, Veire Cozine, Ambrose Foley, Marguerite Foley, Mabel Hood, Leonard Keese, John Kerwin, Alice Kester, Clarence Niklason, Freda Schwab.

Class of 1914—Escal Baker, Olga Christensen, Edith Culver, Ellen Graham, Carrie Herndon, Florence Hood, Leon Johnson, Cecil Keith, Esther Keith, Michael Kerwin, Laura Kraul, Marie Kraus, Florence McLeran, Louis McLeran, Reuben Musson, Eldo Potter, Esther Rasmussen, Pearl Reinemund, Myrtle Roth, Freda Ruhs, William Spilker, Helen Stearns, Earnest Steere, Glenn Turner, Lucile Wright.

Class of 1915—Marion Bagley, Eloise Buck, Arthur Cole, Genevieve Foley, Jennie Hollenbeck, Esther Jacobsen, Roy Jensen, Holger Jensen, Walter Kester, Bessie Miller, Harry Nailor, Ella Petersen, John Rutherford, Vera Rutherford, Bessie Turner, Rose Weighton, Mabel Weldy.

DIRECTORY FOR 1915.

At the present time Audubon has a population of two thousand and eighty. The following is a business directory of the city: Mayor—Halleck J. Mantz. Marshal—Benton L. Darnold. Clerk—William J. Laubender. Assessor—A. L. Weaver. Treasurer—Charles L. Johnson. Justice of the peace—Charles S. White, Daniel L. Thomas. Constables—L. M. Anderson, Wesley H. Jay. Township clerk—Daniel L. Freeman. Postmaster—Robert C. Spencer. Lawyers—John M. Griggs, Charles Bagley, James M.

Graham, John A. Graham, Joseph H. Ross, Charles S. White, Halleck J. Mantz, Lewis C. Bagley, Sidney C. Kerberg. Physicians—Alfred L. Brooks, Ratford F. Childs, John M. Fulton, George A. May, Daniel Franklin, William H. Halloran. Chiropractor—M. O. Kingsbury. Dentists—Carrie Wood, Charles S. McLeran, John K. Donaldson. Veterinary surgeons—George W. Weighton, Will Ellery, James Hollenbeck.

Clergymen—Rev. Ed. B. Cousins, Rev. Thomas B. Greenlee, Rev. Jackson Giddens, Rev. Clinton F. Smith, Rev. Father James McDonald, Rev. D. W. Bryant, Rev. J. P. Christensen. Railroad agents—W. W. Smith, Jesse A. Hunniston. Photographers—Thomas Mason, Sorensen Studio. Music store—J. W. Landrum, manager. Cornet band—D. F. Gifford. Music teachers—D. F. Gifford, Bessie Wilde, Martha Dunn, Mrs. George Green. Public library—Laura V. Delahoyde, librarian. Milliners—Long & Burr, Mrs. L. E. Kline, Mrs. Ben Carr. Dressmakers—Mary McGuire, Mrs. Hecker, Mary McCarthy, Mrs. E. E. Weeks, Clara Anderson, Mrs. J. H. Thorp. Dressmaker colleges—Belle B. Smith, Frances Morrissey. Jewelers—William H. Cowles, J. S. Johnson. Tailors—J. R. Best, C. J. Thomsen. Abstracters—Charles Bagley, Arnold, Ross & Rasmussen. Insurance agents—Ralph D. Hawks, S. B. Morrissey. Life insurance—Arthur Farquhar, V. M. Jones. Real estate agents—Frank M. Herndon, E. H. Jacobsen. Popcorn—Alex. Ferguson. Barbers—Bert A. Keith, William Bailey, Jens J. Haals, E. E. Weeks.

First National Bank—F. S. Watts, cashier. Farmers State Bank—H. M. Bilharz, cashier. Blacksmiths—E. M. Johnson, Rasmus Rasmussen, B. F. Wilson, P. Fredericksen. Carpenters—Hermansen & Stone, Jens Loss, Walter Fredericksen, Jacob Mogg, A. H. Dollahide, James Petersen, John Hepp, George Green. Painters and paper-hangers—E. E. Bailey, J. K. Jensen, Ping Brothers Mumfgaard & Kjer, Clem McCuen, D. J. Conklin & Son, Harry Gleason, Nels Paag, Colonel Fenney. Plumbers—Test Plumbing Company, A. T. Smith. Masons—Robert G. Ping, Kelley & Gaston, Koch & Lund. Harnessmakers—David E. Soar, A. M. Currier, Martin Larsen. Electric lights—R. G. Weiland. Hotels—Park Hotel, Arlington Hotel, Farmers' Home, Boston House, L. O. Petersen.

Boarding house—Charles Reynolds. Restaurant and bakery—Turner Brothers. Cafe—"The Booster," Ralph Garnett. Drug stores—Alex. H. Roberts, Frick Drug Company, F. W. Smith, Griffith & Company. General stores—Evan Marqusen, Chris Olsen, Wilson & Freeman, Renftle & Reed, James H. Baker. Grocers—Hans Albertsen, George W. Preston. Hardware—Audubon Hardware Company, Rinemund Hardware Company,



HIGH SCHOOL, AUDUBON



PUBLIC LIBRARY, AUDUBON

Oelke & Company, Ruhs & Carter. Clothing—Jensen & Weaver, Fred A. Buthweg. Furniture—George W. Hoover, A. C. Harmon. Variety—L. E. Wray, W. H. Simcox. Meat market—J. F. McCort. Boots and shoes—Matthias & Hansen, Rasmussen & Jensen. Tobacco—Dennis & Company. Flour mill—Culver & Son. Laundry—Charles H. Stocking. Machinery and implements—Johnson & Buck. Billiard parlors—Barentsen & Dye, Jensen & Madsen, Vern Snellbaker, Ray Booton.

Garages—Pete Jensen, John Markinsen. Machine shop—Shrader & Marsh. Bridge contractor—Ward & Weighton. Liveryman—Park Livery. Feed stables—George Brady, Nels Sorensen, Andrew Christensen. Sale stable—F. O. Miklasen. Cream station and produce—Charles Wilde, Audubon Produce Company. Standard Oil Company—Olaf Jensen, manager. Cedar Rapids Oil Company—Ren Phelps, manager. Audubon Canning Company—R. J. Loveland, manager. Stock food—Martin Mogg, Jr. Live stock dealers—Northup Brothers, O. L. Lane. Green Bay Lumber Company—F. H. Adams, manager. Dixon Lumber Company, W. J. Laubender, manager. Grain dealer—A. J. Leak, Walter Roth, manager. Opdyke Grain Company—D. C. Hart, manager. Johnson Grain Company—Charles L. and Alva Johnson. Brick and tile works—L. E. Tramp & Tramp. Draymen—J. S. Dennis, W. S. Roberts & Son, L. C. Johnson, Ralph Garnett, Mike Ceronek, Roy Prather.

BRAYTON.

The town of Brayton was laid out by John S. Jenkins and John T. Jenkins on the northwest quarter of section 19, Exira township, December 16, 1878. It was incorporated in 1899. These have held the office of mayor: Dr. William R. Koob, Frank G. Jenkins, Nis Larsen, Lewis C. Heath.

The first school in Brayton was in 1896. The teachers have been: Francina Heath, Anna Stender, Lucille Connrardy, Maye Jenkins, Miss Noalty, Nellie Boockout, Ida Cannon and Vivian Bartlett.

OFFICIAL AND BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

Population, two hundred and thirty-five.

Mayor, Lewis C. Heath; marshal, L. M. Parrott; clerk, Lewis P. Rasmussen; justice of the peace, Thomas J. McGovern; constable, Calvin I. Dimick.

Postmistress—Vivian Bartlett; railroad agent—Lloyd Drew; physician—William R. Koob; hotel—David B. Beers; restaurant—C. P. Petersen; barbers—William Clemensen, Clyde Freeman, ——— Jensen; garage—Anton Juhl; blacksmiths—Ben Gros, Nick Skanning; live-stock dealer—Thomas J. McGovern; Princess Theatre—Chris Hoegh; drug store—Harry Miller & Co.; grain dealer—Hans Hansen, manager; public hall—Jens P. Juhl; billiard parlors—Frank L. Freeman, George Hardwick; pumps and repairs—Molgaard & Nelson; electric lights—George W. Hoegh; bank—Brayton Savings Bank, L. F. Miller, cashier; produce—Brayton Produce Company, Ed. Brown, manager; lumber—Brayton Lumber Company, Lewis P. Rasmussen, manager; cement—Brayton Cement Works—A. T. Rasmussen, manager; general stores—Jacob Andersen, Henry Hansen & Company, Nis Larsen & Son; hardware and implements—Nelsen Brothers; telephones—Nora Larsen, Amelia Andersen; drayman—Garner A. Bartlett.

OAKFIELD.

It was situated on the southwest quarter of section 20, Exira township, on the claim first taken up by John S. Jenkins in 1851, who sold it to Samuel B. Hopkins, and he to Isaac P. Hallock, Sr., in 1855. About the same time Hallock sold it to Erasmus D. Bradley, his son-in-law, who came from Illinois, and was the first merchant in the county. He built the first store house here in 1855, which stood on or near block 9, Oakfield. The town was laid out and platted by Erasmus D. Bradley and Alva B. Brown. The name was suggested by Elam W. Pearl, who settled there, in honor of his former home, a town in New York named Oakfield. Bradley and Brown soon moved away and the Bradley store was succeeded by Elam W. and Joshua A. Pearl and with them was associated Julius M. Hubbard. They were succeeded by Almond Goodale, about 1863-4. His store stood on the corner next north of the present store of Ward Smith. In 1866, Goodale was succeeded by Norton & Jones, who built a new store building on the opposite side of the street. They sold to Keith & Ransford about 1867-8, and moved to Avoca, Iowa. Their successors did a thriving business, which they transferred to Hallock, Jenkins & Powers about 1875. They later closed out to Earl Cotton, who moved the stock to Exira.

About 1874, William Essington and Thomas Walker started a hardware store at Oakfield. They were succeeded by Rudolph Kremmling, who continued the business but a short time. About 1889, Dan Zentmeir started a small store in the Hallock store building. He was succeeded about 1892,

by Frank Greer, who was succeeded by Thomas McGuire about 1893, he by Sykes & Greer about 1895, and they by Frank Greer in 1896. The concern was closed out by Isaac P. Hallock, Jr., and the stock sold to Ward Smith in 1904.

In 1891 a firm was started by a man and wife and their son, styled Three Smiths, which was succeeded, in 1908, by William Pardee, and he by Ward Smith in 1910.

In the early days of Oakfield, a water-power saw-mill was built, in which Alva B. Brown, Julius M. Hubbard, Elam W. Pearl and Joshua A. Pearl were owners at different periods. About 1870 Henry Kincaid was the proprietor and conducted it several years, when it was torn down. Then, on the same site, a company erected a fine flouring-mill, which was sold to Isaac P. Hallock, Jr. George E. Cotton succeeded him in 1878 and continued the business several years, when it was converted into a sorghum manufactory. The entire business has been obsolete many years.

Until the railroad came to Brayton, Oakfield was the second best town in the county. It was a busy place. Among its citizens were some of the most progressive, enterprising men of the county. Some of the old settlers were: John S. Jenkins, Benjamin F. Jenkins, John T. Jenkins, Isaac H. Jenkins, Samuel B. Hopkins, Alva B. Brown, Isaac P. Hallock, Sr., Richard S. Hallock, Isaac P. Hallock, Jr., Erasmus D. Bradley, William C. Norton, John C. Norton, Charles H. Norton, Julius M. Hubbard, Giles N. Jones, James M. Jones, Mark Heath, Norman Archer, Richard M. Lewis, Elam W. Pearl, Joshua A. Pearl, A. M. Graves, Thomas Roland, Alonzo N. Arnold, Robert N. Day, Thomas T. Rogers, James Howlett, Samuel Howlett, Mrs. Maria D. Butler, Joseph Porter, Mrs. Julia Delahoyde, Peter Delahoyde, Almond Goodale, Henry Kincade, Orris C. Keith, H. Ransford, Dr. Tingle, Harmon G. Smith, George E. Cotton, James W. Brown, William S. Ordway.

Oakfield's first school house must have been built as late as 1858, probably by Alonzo N. Arnold, on the east side of town, on the hill in the edge of the timber, about block 13 or 14. In 1871-2 a new two-story school house was built, which is still doing duty.

It is impossible to obtain an accurate list of the teachers who have taught school there, or the order in which they were employed. Some of the teachers were: Miss Disbrow, Jane Beers, Mary Crane, Hattie Beers, Mary Beck, John A. Hallock, Darthula Rogers, Arabella Macomber (she was the famous Major Belle Reynolds of Shiloh fame), Robert N. Day, Harmon G. Smith, Julius M. Hill, E. S. Fales, Mr. Farrell, William H.

Brinkerhoff, Claude N. Andrews, Clara Ordway, Miss Derby, J. O. Cotton, Ernest Smith, Moses Brinkerhoff, Mr. Enenbeck, V. Roberson, Mr. Stiles, Mr. Koob, Mr. Eversol, Lettie Smith, Mr. Vanderlin, B. O. Spillman, Miss Maulsby, Miss Anderson, Francina Pottle, Nettie Bruner, Pearl Jenkins, Gladys Chamberlain, Edith Brown, Maye Jenkins, Nellie Boockout, Pluma Freeman, Mary Curry and Vivian Bartlett.

About 1874 a public hall was erected, which was occupied by the Odd Fellows lodge. It was moved to Brayton in 1882. The coming of the railroad in 1868 carried most of the business to Brayton. The only remaining business house is the store of Ward B. Smith. Dr. Richard S. Hallock was the resident physician many years, except when he was in the army. He went to Salida, Colorado, in 1882.

GRAY.

Gray was laid out by George Gray in section 12, Lincoln township, on August 10, 1881. The Northwestern railroad came into the town from Carroll, by way of Manning, early in 1882. George Gray was for many years the most prominent business man here. He built a grain elevator, office, hotel and residence. He was not only proprietor, but owned thousands of acres of the best farms in the vicinity and was the first grain and stock dealer in town.

Among the early business men in 1881 were: Mr. Motter, general store, who sold to William R. Johnson the same year; Mr. Reeves, hardware, who sold to Stotts & Myers the same year; George Eby, liveryman; George Farmer, meat market; Mr. Smith, boarding house; Doctor Warner, physician. Other settlers the same year were: A. G. Forsbeck, Charles McLaughlin and George McLaughlin.

In 1882 Stotts & Gifford started a general store; David DeGood, blacksmith; L. C. Whipple, hotel; Dr. Frank Hinsdale, physician; Green Bay Lumber Co., with O. B. Francisco, manager, succeeded by Mr. Wakefield, he by P. C. Moeller and he by Henry Mohr; Charles Stuart & Son, grain and lumber dealers, with W. H. Kellogg, manager, succeeded by W. H. Stowell in 1883; Audas Brothers and Railey Brothers, merchants in 1885; B. and H. W. Lebeck, general store; Lancelot & Rees started a general store in 1886. Fred C. Hepp started the blacksmith and hardware business in 1886; Welty & Crow, hardware, in 1888.

Other old settlers were A. F. Aikman, Frank P. Rees, Seth Gifford,

Thomas J. Spilker, Dr. A. L. Brooks, Samuel T. Thompson, Horace Shelley, Dr. Lawrence A. Beers.

The first postmaster was Willis P. Stotts, 1882. Other postmasters have been: Mr. Jones, Walter J. Audas, William J. Lancelot, Fred C. Hepp, A. F. Greenwalt, C. Eugene Mertz, Elmer Audas, B. A. Swart and Clarence Shingledecker.

In 1888 one of the country school houses was moved into town. The present independent district of Gray embraces the west one-half of sections 6 and 7; the northwest one-quarter of section 18, Cameron township; all of section 1; east one-half of sections 2 and 11; all of section 12; north one-half of section 13, and northeast one-quarter of section 14 in Lincoln township. A new school house was erected in 1901 at the cost of two thousand five hundred dollars. The school is graded and employs three teachers; sixty-eight pupils are enrolled in 1915. These have been teachers: Etta Barrich, principal; Anna Bovaird, primary; Aeta Crow, principal; Lillian Ott, primary; Nora O'Leary, principal; Miss DeMotte and Alta Crow, primary; Will H. Lancelot, principal; Mrs. J. A. Crow and Mabel Swaney, primary; William Meek, principal; Mabel Swaney, primary; William Cunningham, principal; Mabel Swaney, primary; Charles Ford, principal; Emerson Shelley, intermediate; Mollie Barger, primary; K. G. Lancelot, principal; Emerson Shelley, Arden Shelley, Howard Kittell, intermediates; Mollie Barger and Ella Denton, primaries; Belle Lancelot, principal; Grace Swaney, intermediate; Ella Denton, primary.

These have also been teachers: Ella Forsbeck, Bessie Bunker, Maude Carpenter, Blanche Shaffer, May Delaney, Anna O'Leary, Matilda Jensen, Frank White, Will Hammond, Lucille Snyder, Raba McVey, A. J. Albin, Lillian Halford, C. R. Wiseman, Mildred Bowen, Bessie Ross, Emma Wickwire and perhaps others.

The town was incorporated in 1897 and embraced all of section 12, Lincoln township. The following named gentlemen have held the office of mayor of the town: Walter J. Audas, William J. Lancelot, C. Eugene Mertz, Frank J. Rogers, Fred C. Hepp, Harry A. Bates, A. G. McMullen, A. G. Forsbeck.

OFFICIAL AND BUSINESS DIRERTORY.

Mayor, A. G. Forsbeck; clerk, Charles C. Linn; marshall and constable, Frank J. Rogers; assessor, Howard Rogers; postmaster, Clarence Shingledecker; mail carrier, George Garber; principal of school, Leo Bruce.

Clergyman—J. A. Mitchell; railroad agent—Thomas J. Spilker; bank

—Farmers Savings Bank, Ed. C. Rice, cashier; hotel—Mrs. Garber; drug store—Elmer Audas; restaurant—Frank J. Rogers; general store—James A. Rutherford; hardware—L. Groteluschen Company; harnessmaker—D. C. Ross; garage—John Shaw; blacksmiths—Fred C. Hepp, Link O'Connell; liveryman—L. L. Farrell; barber—Guy E. Farrell; stock-buyer—D. O. Corner; grain—Opdyke Grain Company, Austin L. Linn, manager; Trans-Miss. Grain Company, D. J. Sweeney, manager; Green Bay Lumber Co., Frank Murphy manager; carpenter—John Markley; painter and paper-hanger—B. A. Swart; drayman—Chris. Jensen.

HAMLIN STATION.

The town of Hamlin Station was laid out on the southeast quarter of section 10, Hamlin township, by J. Lewis Drew, on November 10, 1890. The following named persons have been among the residents of the town: Mordicai Hutton, Henry Young, Samuel Atkinson, John E. McGuire, Charles Higgins, Nels Rattenborg, J. P. M. Jensen, Simon Christensen, Peter Reisgaard, Hans P. Mortensen, Mrs. Petersen, Chris. Johnson, Fred Heilman, Philip Young, S. D. Coonrod, Hans J. Hansen, Hans Aagaard, Wilhelm Olesen, Victor Nelson, Jacob Sandbeck, Mrs. Mary C. Haahr, Soren Sandbeck, Hans Carstensen, John McNutt.

These have been postmasters: James Elrod, William McGuire, Chris. Justensen, Thomas Brahn, Robert H. Garnett, Knut J. Petersen.

Population, eighty-five.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

Postmaster, Knut J. Petersen; railroad agent—T. O. McCarthy; school teacher—Grace Lee; hotel—Karen Mortensen; Farmers Savings Bank—L. C. Christoffersen, cashier; garage—Cal Belcher; blacksmith, Rasmus Johansen; general stores—Hans J. Johnson, C. P. Christensen; hardware—Nels Mortensen; barber and billard parlor—Will Krohn; lumber dealer and cement works—Fred O. Anderson, manager; creamery—Marinus Nielsen, manager; grain and stock dealer—Peter Nelson; drayman—Gill Petty.

KIMBALLTON.

The town of Kimballton was founded and laid out by Hans J. Jorgensen on the northeast quarter of section 30, Sharon township, in 1883. The

first merchant was Louis Hansen, in 1883. The business interests in 1889 were represented by Marquesen & Mehard and A. Bergreen, general stores; Eveck & Gray, hardware and farm implements; Carl Johnson, blacksmith, and L. C. Johnson, carpenter.

Hans J. Jorgensen was the first postmaster, in 1883, and was succeeded by Hans Marquesen, in 1888. The Atlantic Northern railroad was built from Atlantic to Kimballton in 1907.

Kimballton was incorporated on June 1, 1908. The mayors of the town have been P. E. James and Thomas Thompson. It is an independent school district, and its teachers are the Dallinger sisters, Flora, Bertha and Margaret. Its waterworks system was established in 1912, and its electric light plant in 1913.

OFFICIAL AND BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

Population, three hundred and fifty.

Mayor, Thomas Thompson; clerk, Hans Madsen; marshal, Conrad Nelsen; justice of the peace, Chris T. Christensen; constable, Jens Smith; postmaster, Frank Thompson.

Clergyman—Rev. J. Jorgensen; physician—Peter Soe; photographer—Mads Knudsen; bankers—Hans Madson and Math. Nessager; newspaper—Fred N. Harmon; hotel—Marie Rasmussen; restaurant—Peter Kirk; drug store—Jorgensen & Thompson; jeweller—S. H. Sovensen; musical instruments—H. M. Nordley; picture show—A. J. Mautz; real estate agents—George Nelsen, Martin Frederickson, Hjalmar Rasmussen; tailor—Walter Madsen; barber—J. E. Tvenstrup; blacksmith—Jens West; harness shop—Evald Trukken; public library; mason—Nels B. Bennedsen; carpenter—Hans P. Hansen; liveryman—Lars Rasmussen; auto livery—A. J. Winther; painters and paper-hangers—Chris Hansen, ——— Randolph, ——— Andersen; general stores—Faaborg & Co., Larsen & Jorgensen; grocer—G. G. Muller & Co.; hardware—H. P. Bonnesen; hardware and implements—Hansen & Sorensen; grain elevator—Andrew Rattenborg, manager; live stock dealer—Chris O. Jensen; Farmers Shipper's Union—Paul Bjorn, manager; furniture—Nelsen & Andersen; electric lights—John Nelsen; garage—Martin N. Esbeck; motor and auto supplies—Henbusker & Larsen; creamery—Peter Thuesen, manager; construction company—Thorwald Jensen; lumber dealers—Olaf Hansen, manager; Hans Boldt, manager; Standard Oil Co.—Peter J. Bertelsen, manager; meat markets—Magnus Nelsen, Jens Nelsen; railroad agents; brick and tile works—Ole Jacobson.

ROSS.

The town of Ross was laid out in section 4, Leroy township, and was platted on July 28, 1882. A postoffice was established there in 1883. The former postmasters were L. D. Thomas and John Wagner. The railroad depot was built in 1885, and the first merchants were Fox & Johnson. J. F. Luse had a store there in 1889. Charles Stuart & Son and George Gray were formerly engaged there in the grain and coal trade. Other residents have been Mr. Zebol, Jesse Neitzel, Mr. Keonick, John Petersen, John Wagner, John McKee, John Ehlit, Nels Olsen and George McEwing.

The business directory of the town in 1915 is as follows: Postmistress, Lena Mack; railroad agent, Inman Sherman; store, Max Ehlert; blacksmith, William Smith; lumber dealer, Fred Jones; grain elevators, Jesse Ferguson and Bert McNutt; implements, machinery and harness, William Bauers; drayman, John Bonnett. There are Methodist and Lutheran churches.

OBSOLETE TOWNS.

Dayton was platted on July 9, 1855. It was the first county seat, but contained only two buildings, and the county seat was changed to Exira in 1861. It was vacated many, many years ago and is now embraced in a farm.

Audubon City was platted and laid out by Thomas S. Lewis and Nathaniel Hamlin on the southwest quarter of section 25, Exira township, on September 3, 1856. It was a failure from the start. It contained a residence or two and a store. The first school house was there, all before 1861. It was all vacated many years ago and is now embraced in a farm.

Louisville was laid out and platted by Nathaniel Hamlin on the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 17, Exira township, on October 23, 1866. It was the site of the Green & Burnham steam-mill in 1856. Howard J. Green, Franklin Burnham and Charles L. Chapin lived there in 1856, and others lived there subsequently, before 1865. In 1866 it was the busiest place in the county, with saw and flouring-mill, store, blacksmith shop and quite a number of residences. It continued to be a busy place as late as 1874. During its business career its residents, besides those mentioned, were: Levi Zaner, Nathaniel Hamlin, John B. Connrardy, Adonijah J. Harris, James Harris, Horatio P. Smith, Leman Carley,

Francis J. Shrauger, Robert T. Smart, Daniel W. Miller, John S. Wright, Charles E. Hartman, Kizer, Robinson and others.

It is now embraced in the farm of Julius E. Herrick, Esq. Audubon Lodge No. 217, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the oldest lodge in the county, was organized at Louisville, October 19, 1871, and built an Odd Fellows hall. The lodge was moved to Oakfield in 1874 and the hall was torn down.

Hamlin was laid out by the Hamlin Town Company, consisting of Nathaniel Hamlin, I. N. Donnel, P. Gad Bryan, George W. Seevers, Hugh W. Maxwell and H. Devere Thompson, in sections 1 and 2, in Hamlin township, in 1872. The plat was filed on April 29, 1873. It was the fairest townsite ever founded in Audubon county. It contained a hotel, several stores, a school house and several dwellings. It was defeated for county seat in 1873, a lamentable event and to the lasting injury of the county that it was not selected for the permanent county seat. It was vacated many years ago and is now embraced in a farm.

CHAPTER XIX.

THE DANES.

Between Exira and Harlan in the west part of Audubon county and the east part of Shelby county is a large settlement of Danish people. Their rise and progress have been something remarkable and interesting. The first of these people settled in Shelby county, and came later to Audubon county. As early as 1863, Chris Johnson, better known to old settlers as "Big Chris," lived on a homestead in Shelby county, near the northwest corner of Oakfield township, about two miles south of the present town of Elkhorn. In the early days he was instrumental in settling several Danish people in the western part of Audubon county. These people came direct from Denmark to his place and lived with him to learn the language of the country and the methods of agriculture. He assisted them in buying and improving their lands, and in making their initial start at home making and farming, in many ways.

The first Dane who settled in the county was Jens U. Hansen, who came in 1869 from Shelby county and lived temporarily in a shanty in the north part of section 5, Exira township, near John W. Dodge. He was a carpenter and a very industrious man; worked with Mr. Dodge and helped build the old big barn on the Pray place, now owned by Martin P. Mardensen, on section 27, Hamlin township. He also helped build the Congregational church in Exira, in 1870; built a house for Charles Van Gorder, in Exira, in 1871, and built the John D. Bush house in Exira. He improved a farm in section 36, Sharon township, in 1870, upon which he settled in 1871, and lived there many years. He now resides in the same vicinity. During succeeding years many Danish people settled in Audubon county.

Following is a list of the early Danish settlers in Audubon county, with places and dates of settlement:

OAKFIELD TOWNSHIP.

In Section 2. Lorenz P. Nelsen, 1883.

In Section 3. M. Ballmus, 1880; C. Christensen, 1880.

In Section 4. A. P. Hansen, 1878; Rasmus Axelsen, 1875; Andrew P. Hansen, 1878; Jens Hansen, 1878; Chris Hansen, 1878; Lars N. Esbeck,

1882; Christian N. Esbeck, 1881; John Sorensen, 1882; John N. Esbeck, 1883.

In Section 5. Nels J. Boose, 1881; Nels B. Christensen, 1887; Andrew Sorensen, 1882; Drace Sorensen, 1882; Chris Jensen, 1881; Chris Hansen, 1878; Andrew N. Esbeck, 1879; John Petersen, 1885; Jacob Beck, 1885; L. P. Miller, 1883.

In Section 6. A. C. Nelsen, 1880; Lars Hansen, 1875; Nels J. Nelson, 1883; Tore Toresen, 1871; Lars Hansen, 1875; Paul Boyeson, 1880; Aug. L. Boyeson, 1880; Chris Petersen, 1878; Nels C. Christensen, 1885; Charles J. Shack, 1875; H. F. Shack, 1875; J. P. Nielsen, 1886.

In Section 7. Simon Everson, 1875; Chris Olsen, 1885; Nels Bollesen, 1878; A. P. Poulsen, 1880; Elias Jacobsen, date unknown.

In Section 8. Peter Nelson, 1882.

In Section 10. Niels Hansen, 1883; Lars Christensen, 1875; Nels J. Petersen, 1883.

In Section 14. Jens U. Petersen, 1872; Peter Hansen, 1873; John Johnsen, 1872.

In Section 15. Hans Nymand, 1881; Jesse Nymand, 1880; Jacob P. Bendixen, 1881; Carl F. Nelsen, 1872.

In Section 16. Knud Knudsen, 1875.

In Section 17. Jens P. Christoffersen, 1872; B. H. Christensen, 1876; John P. Hoegh, 1881; S. P. Daugard, 1882.

In Section 20. Hans C. Hansen, 1882;

In Section 21. Nels P. Hoegh, 1875; George Hansen, 1875; H. C. Nielsen, 1872.

In Section 22. Chris Christensen, 1883; Hans P. Hansen, 1880; Ebbe J. Hansen, 1880; Peter Jacobsen, 1877.

In Section 27. Peter Albertsen, 1881; H. P. Larsen, 1875.

In Section 28. H. C. Nielsen, 1873; William Erickson, 1880.

In Section 33. N. P. Petersen, 1871; Peter Nielsen, 1871; Niels Andersen, 1871.

In Section 34. N. C. Nielsen, 1871; Martin Nielsen, 1871.

HAMLIN TOWNSHIP.

In Section 29. J. H. Johnson, 1880.

In Section 30. Chris Petersen, 1886; Peter Wilson, 1885; Peter Madsen, 1880.

In Section 31. Jens P. Wilson, 1885; Nels Petersen, 1881.

SHARON TOWNSHIP.

In Section 7. Peter F. Pedersen, 1880; Andreas C. Sorensen, 1881; Jens Rosenbeck, 1886.

In Section 14. Christian M. Hansen, 1882; Charles Petersen, 1878.

In Section 15. Jasper Jensen, 1880; Martin N. Esbeck, 1879; Chris L. Hansen, 1880.

In Section 16. Martin Larsen, 1882; Jens Marcussen, 1882; Anders Christoffersen, 1882; Hans Marcussen, 1882.

In Section 17. Hans Petersen, 1876; Nels Petersen, 1880; George L. Jorgensen, 1879; Chris J. Christensen, 1881; Henrick J. Ipsen, 1880; Albert H. Jorgensen, 1880; Peter Rasmussen, 1880.

In Section 18. Chris T. Christensen, 1880; Chris L. Petersen, 1881; Peter Nissen, 1885; Lars Jensen, date unknown; Niels H. Nielsen, 1878; Niels J. Meng, 1880; Chris Larsen, 1880.

In Section 19. Andreas Petersen, 1881; Albert C. Christensen, 1880; Ole Ericksen, 1877; Peter Olsen, 1877.

In Section 20. Peter N. Jorgensen, 1874; Thomas Smith, 1880; Hans Larsen, 1880; Nels Petersen, 1880.

In Section 21. Jens Larsen, 1880; Hans Petersen, 1883; Peter H. Andersen, 1883.

In Section 23. Willads Rattenborg, 1883.

In Section 27. Rasmus Petersen, 1885; Soren S. Faaborg, 1882; Simon Christensen, 1879.

In Section 28. John Faaborg, 1881; Chris Montensen, 1879; Peter N. Esbeck, 1878; Chris Mascussen, 1882; Peter Johnsen, date unknown.

In Section 29. Jens T. Larsen, 1874; Erik P. Simonsen, 1878.

In Section 30. Hans J. Jorgensen, 1874; Chris P. Madsen, 1874; Jens Christensen, 1878; Hans Madsen, 1874; Mads Madsen, 1874; Ole H. Jacobsen, 1875; Ole H. Jacobsen, Jr., 1875; Clarence Jacobsen, 1875; Chris Jacobsen, 1875; Ole Olson, 1873.

In Section 31. John Andersen, 1878; Hans P. Christensen, 1877; Lars Mortensen, 1878; Hans Rasmussen, 1881.

In Section 32. Jens C. Hansen, 1880; Niels Hansen, 1880; Soren Sorensen, 1880; Svend Larsen, 1883; Chris Christensen, 1881; Lars Nelsen, 1881; Jens Carlsen, 1882; Jens C. Kjar, 1880.

In Section 33. Lars C. Jensen, 1883; Jens M. Rasmussen, 1880; Carl Iversen, 1882; Chris Iversen, 1882; Anton Christensen, 1877.

In Section 34. Chris Thomson, 1880; Nels P. Jensen, 1882; William Christensen, 1881; Lars Sorensen, 1883; Chris Hendriksen, 1883; Soren Sorensen, 1880.

In Section 35. Peter Axelsen, 1875.

In Section 36. Jens Sorensen, 1881; Jens U. Hansen, 1871.

DOUGLAS TOWNSHIP.

In Section 35. Chris Justesen, 1880.

DESIRABLE IMMIGRANTS.

These people have greatly multiplied and now number many thousands. But few of them possessed more than the common necessities of life. The lands where they settled were mostly hilly, rough, and brushy, and not of the best quality; but they were well adapted as colonists in a new country, a strong, hardy, healthy race; intelligent, honest, industrious, patient and progressive—just what were required to subdue the wilderness, and build up a prosperous community.

The writer well recalls their first coming, and sold land to some of them. Many at first purchased but forty acres—usually paying down about \$70—upon which they built a board shanty, ten feet square, barely sufficient to hold a bed, table and a few necessary household articles. The cooking stove was set up outside under a board shed, next to the living room. Then they obtained a cheap team, wagon and plow, a cow, an old sow and some chickens and proceeded to break out the farm. Sometimes they planted sod corn the first year and prepared for a crop the next year. After about this fashion they began life in this new country. Times were hard and ready money not to be had. No banks, and farm loans not to be obtained here at that period. Farm products were low in price, and the markets many miles distant. But they had come to stay. By industry and patient perseverance they worked and paid for their homes and increased their possessions. Their financial integrity as compared with that of the average western man was remarkable from the start. There were very few rogues among them. The writer found that when a Dane was given credit for any kind of purchase that he usually met his obligations promptly to the day, which was not true of many other people in the community.

In 1894 the writer had occasion to mention them in the senate of Iowa, citing the founding and progress of their community, and contending that it

compared favorably with anything of the kind of its age in the world; which was true, and it has since continually been progressing.

BUILDING ELKHORN COLLEGE.

In 1878 Rev. Olav Kirkeberg, pastor of the Lutheran church at Elkhorn, founded Elkhorn College, built by subscription; the Danish people in the vicinity contributing liberally for the purpose. It was out in the wilderness, but the Danish farmers turned out with their teams and hauled the material for the erection of the building from the railroad, and the coal with which to heat it when completed. There was a college mess-hall for the students, the food for which, meat, flour, milk, vegetables, etc., was supplied by the neighboring people. They sent their boys and girls to this school. The students printed and published a college journal—*Dannetvirke*—proclaiming that Elkhorn College was the only Danish college in America. Students attended from all over Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Dakota, Nebraska and other states, and some even from Denmark.

It was a common occurrence at that time to observe the old, heavy, wooden chests and trunks of the Scandinavian emigrants marked: "Elkhorn, Iowa, U. S. A." The college was burned down twice, but a better building was erected on the original site in 1910.

TOWNS IN THE DANISH NEIGHBORHOOD.

In 1888 the town of Kimballton—named for an official of the railroad company—was founded in the southwest quarter of section 30, Sharon township, and another town, Elkhorn, is situated two and one-half miles south, in Shelby county. These towns, situated well back in the hills, are strictly up-to-date, with commodious dwellings, business houses and modern improvements, new and tidy. A spirit of rivalry exists between the two little cities, while the people are mostly Danish.

After living in the country for more than thirty years without a railroad the citizens rallied and built one themselves, from Kimballton to Atlantic. Sharon township voted a railroad tax of five mills on the dollar, and another township in Shelby county voted a like tax, for building the road, and private citizens along the line subscribed for the railroad stock for the same purpose. In such way the railroad was accomplished.

These Danish people have become an important factor in the affairs of Audubon county. They are largely devoted to agricultural pursuits, for

which they are peculiarly well qualified. As farmers they are not excelled. Starting as poor men, they now own hundreds of magnificent farms, under a high state of cultivation, with handsome dwelling and home lots, fine barns and farm buildings for sheltering stock and housing grain and hay; fields and pastures thoroughly fenced and stocked with the best breeds of horses, cattle, hogs, poultry, etc. The tidy, thrifty appearance of their farms attest the industry and prosperity of the owners.

As business men they rank favorably with the same classes of people elsewhere. In the learned professions we find among them lawyers, doctors, clergymen, and school teachers. They have represented the county in the Legislature, and in the county and local offices. Others are bankers, merchants, agents and representatives of nearly all lines of trades and special callings.

WORTHY CITIZENS.

The Danish people in this county aspire to become thoroughly Americanized, to assume the best types of American manhood and womanhood, and to conform themselves to American laws and customs. Nearly all of the male portion of them as early as convenient become naturalized citizens and readily assume their duties as such. They are patrons of schools and education. It is a rare thing to discover one of these people who cannot read and write. In politics they are remarkably independent about local affairs, generally favoring their own race of people. In this particular they are inclined to be clannish. Religiously many are Lutheran, the church of their nativity. Quite a number are Adventists, and some are members of other denominations.

Honest "Pete" Christiansen once in discussing the Danish social proposition said that the Danish boys should marry American girls, and vice versa. He put the theory into actual practice, with success as it appeared.

To sum up in a nutshell—there are no better or more worthy people in the county than the Danes; and there are many other people here who are equally worthy.

CHAPTER XX.

AUDUBON COUNTY STATISTICS.

PRESENT POSTOFFICES.

Names.	Established.
Audubon -----	May 12, 1871
Brayton -----	February 27, 1880
Exira -----	June 27, 1856
Gray -----	January 30, 1882
Hamlin -----	June 24, 1873
Kimballton -----	January 16, 1882
Ross -----	August 23, 1883

OBSOLETE POSTOFFICES.

Names.	Established.	Discontinued.
Audubon Center -----	December 13, 1877	September 30, 1867
Audubon Heights -----	June 13, 1877	
(name changed to Conkling) -----	February 28, 1881	
Civil Point -----	January 8, 1879	July 26, 1880
Conkling -----		June 14, 1894
Exline (site changed to Appanoose county) -----	January 14, 1878	
Fiscus (site changed to Shelby county) -----	September 8, 1898	March 15, 1908
Grove (late Hamlin Grove) --		August 30, 1888
Hamlin Grove (name changed to Grove) -----	October 1, 1853	June 24, 1873
Horace -----	March 19, 1878	September 26, 1894
Irwin -----	June 6, 1871	March 26, 1879
Jobes (site changed to Guthrie county) -----	January 2, 1877	January 17, 1903
Louisville -----	February 6, 1872	January 21, 1880
Larland -----	April 30, 1890	May 15, 1902

Leroyville -----	May 16, 1871	November 8, 1878
Melville -----	February 19, 1878	October 24, 1891
Oakfield -----	October 22, 1858	November 29, 1881
Orleans (site changed to Appanoose county) -----	May 4, 1860	
Poplar -----	March 30, 1892	March 15, 1908
Price -----	February 9, 1886	August 17, 1889
Thompson -----	October 7, 1872	February 24, 1880
Viola Center -----	March 6, 1878	March 21, 1903

CENSUS STATISTICS 1856.

Dwelling houses -----	49
Families -----	50
Males -----	150
Females -----	133
Married -----	93
Widowed -----	5
Voters -----	69
Aliens -----	2
Militia -----	60
Land owners -----	51

	Acres.	Bushels.
Improved land -----	701	----
Spring wheat -----	115	1,971
Oats -----	28	1,405
Corn -----	334	10,720
Potatoes -----	12	1,927

	Number.	Value.
Hogs sold -----	223	1,916
Cattle sold -----	132	4,376
Manufacturers -----		1,335
Butter, pounds -----	3,656	----
Wool, pounds -----	375	----

	1875	1880	1885	1890	1895	1900	1905
	acres	acres	acres	acres	acres	acres	acres
Improved land -----	21,046	94,723	165,672	248,276	244,169	272,197	264,749
Unimproved land -----	257,368	36,587	44,406	19,530	18,698	10,259	19,842

OCCUPATIONS.

Farmers -----	32
Laborers -----	12
Blacksmith -----	1
Carpenters -----	5
Machinists -----	3

POPULATION OF AUDUBON COUNTY BY YEARS.

1856, 283; 1859, 365; 1860, 453; 1863, 388; 1865, 510; 1867, 790; 1869, 1,032; 1870, 1,212; 1873, 1,873; 1875, 2,370; 1880, 7,448; 1885, 10,825; 1890, 12,412; 1895, 12,836; 1900, 13,625; 1905, 12,937; 1910, 12,671.

POPULATION BY TOWNS.

	1860	1870	1880	1885	1890	1895	1900	1905	1910
Audubon -----	----	----	792	1,152	1,310	1,585	1,866	1,764	1,928
Brayton -----	----	----	38	----	124	----	141	196	137
Exira -----	83	160	604	552	575	748	851	828	787
Gray -----	----	----	----	----	----	172	180	191	148
Oakfield -----	----	----	88	----	----	----	----	----	----
Kimballton -----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	271

POPULATION BY TOWNSHIPS.

	1890	1900	1905	1910
Audubon -----	953	953	917	825
Cameron -----	756	708	619	550
Douglas -----	783	848	870	848
Exira, except Brayton and Exira town-----	1,040	1,034	909	836
Greeley -----	779	766	714	651
Hamlin -----	806	962	961	918
Leroy, except Audubon town-----	858	795	753	820
Lincoln, except Gray town-----	----	907	827	713
Melville -----	729	618	565	590
Oakfield -----	1,004	1,065	951	996
Sharon -----	972	1,233	1,223	1,210
Viola -----	709	699	648	637

MALE POPULATION, BY YEARS.

1856, 150; 1859, 198; 1860, 239; 1863, 194; 1865, 240.

VOTERS, BY YEARS.

1856, 69; 1859, 93; 1863, 88; 1865, 110; 1867, 177; 1869, 248; 1873, 430; 1875, 527; 1885, 2,514; 1895, 3,091; 1900, —; 1905, 3,415.

NATIVITY OF POPULATION.

	1856	1895	1905		1856	1895	1905
Austria -----	---	---	10	Georgia -----	---	5	---
Bohemia -----	---	---	14	Illinois -----	12	937	688
Belgium -----	---	2	---	Indiana -----	10	279	177
Canada -----	1	74	31	Indian Ter. ----	---	2	---
Denmark -----	---	1,252	1,469	Iowa -----	48	6,989	8,103
England -----	10	134	71	Kansas -----	2	59	62
France -----	---	7	8	Kentucky -----	17	58	34
Germany -----	1	953	786	Maine -----	1	21	12
Holland -----	---	3	---	Maryland -----	2	16	5
Ireland -----	---	111	69	Massachusetts --	16	20	12
Norway -----	---	18	15	Michigan -----	8	28	49
Russia -----	---	---	2	Minnesota -----	---	---	18
Scotland -----	1	27	21	Mississippi -----	---	2	---
Sweden -----	---	44	42	Missouri -----	---	76	80
Switzerland ----	---	---	4	Montana -----	---	12	---
United States --	10,104	---	---	Nebraska -----	---	84	132
Wales -----	---	7	5	New Hampshire	5	15	11
Other European				New Jersey -----	---	27	24
countries -----	---	39	---	New York -----	34	244	149
Asia -----	---	1	---	North Carolina -	---	21	6
Unknown -----	30	60	6	North Dakota --	---	14	---
Alabama -----	---	2	---	Ohio -----	47	506	309
Arkansas -----	---	2	---	Oregon -----	---	1	---
California -----	---	4	2	Pennsylvania ---	7	309	219
Colorado -----	---	5	6	Rhode Island --	---	4	---
Connecticut ----	4	10	8	South Carolina -	---	1	---
Delaware -----	---	1	---	South Dakota --	---	11	22

	1856	1895	1905		1856	1895	1905
Tennessee -----	2	11	11	Washington -----	---	10	---
Texas -----	---	2	---	West Virginia --	---	18	12
Vermont -----	4	37	26	Wisconsin -----	4	129	124
Virginia -----	17	46	25				

NATIVES OF IOWA, BY COUNTIES.

Adair -----	18	Floyd -----	2
Adams -----	12	Franklin -----	2
Alamakee -----	3	Fremont -----	5
Appanoose -----	8	Green -----	11
Audubon -----	4,245	Grundy -----	5
Benton -----	40	Guthrie -----	113
Black Hawk -----	9	Hardin -----	2
Boone -----	15	Harrison -----	9
Bremer -----	2	Henry -----	40
Buchanan -----	3	Ida -----	9
Beuna Vista -----	2	Iowa -----	140
Butler -----	3	Jackson -----	46
Carroll -----	126	Jasper -----	89
Cass -----	256	Jefferson -----	16
Cedar -----	52	Johnson -----	217
Cherokee -----	1	Jones -----	25
Chickasaw -----	1	Keokuk -----	35
Clarke -----	9	Lee -----	9
Clay -----	1	Linn -----	17
Clayton -----	34	Louisa -----	8
Clinton -----	59	Lucas -----	2
Crawford -----	49	Lyon -----	1
Dallas -----	37	Madison -----	38
Davis -----	5	Mahasha -----	47
Decatur -----	13	Marion -----	56
Delaware -----	3	Marshall -----	43
Des Moines -----	31	Mills -----	11
Dickinson -----	1	Mitchell -----	1
Dubuque -----	36	Monona -----	3
Emmet -----	1	Monroe -----	5
Fayette -----	19	Montgomery -----	19

Muscatine -----	53	Sioux -----	7
O'Brien -----	3	Story -----	23
Osceola -----	1	Tama -----	21
Page -----	5	Taylor -----	18
Palo Alto -----	4	Union -----	2
Plymouth -----	3	Van Buren -----	4
Pocahontas -----	1	Wapello -----	21
Polk -----	87	Warren -----	28
Pottawattomie -----	78	Washington -----	27
Poweshiek -----	111	Webster -----	1
Ringgold -----	5	Winneshiek -----	4
Sac -----	5	Woodbury -----	4
Scott -----	102	Others -----	54
Shelby -----	205		

OCCUPATIONS—1895.

Agents -----	8	Dairymen -----	6
Insurance -----	5	Dentists -----	4
Land -----	4	Doctors -----	13
Railroad -----	6	Domestics -----	41
Auctioneers -----	1	Draymen -----	12
Bakers -----	1	Dressmakers -----	24
Bankers -----	6	Druggists -----	8
Barbers -----	13	Editors -----	1
Beekeepers -----	1	Engineers, stationary -----	4
Billiard men -----	9	Farmers -----	2,072
Blacksmiths -----	28	Farmers, retired -----	13
Bookkeepers -----	7	Gardeners -----	9
Brickmakers -----	4	Graindealers -----	7
Brokers -----	2	Harnessmakers -----	20
Butchers -----	15	Hotel and rest. keepers -----	9
Carpenters -----	60	Housekeepers -----	26
Civil officers -----	5	Jewelers -----	5
Clergymen -----	19	Laborers -----	425
Clerks -----	46	Laborers, farm -----	74
Contractors -----	1	Lawyers -----	15
Cooks -----	1	Liverymen -----	7
Creamery -----	1	Machinists -----	3

Mail carriers -----	5	Shoemakers -----	6
Marble cutters -----	3	Spinners -----	2
Manufacturers -----	4	Stock dealers -----	10
Mechanics -----	19	Stonemasons -----	8
Merchants -----	73	Students -----	4
Millers -----	4	Surveyors -----	1
Milliners -----	7	Tailors -----	5
Miners -----	2	Tanners -----	3
Musicians -----	4	Teachers -----	126
Nurses -----	2	Teamsters -----	10
Opticians -----	2	Telegraph operators -----	6
Painters -----	12	Tinners -----	4
Photographers -----	5	Traveling salesmen -----	1
Plasterers -----	9	Veterinarians -----	3
Printers -----	13	Wagon makers -----	1
Railway employes -----	1	Weavers -----	1
Seamstresses -----	2	Well diggers -----	2

FARM PRODUCTIONS, 1905.

	Acres.	Bushels.	Value.
Corn -----	91,969	3,797,856	\$1,203,141
Wheat -----	11,714	94,260	67,037
Oats -----	31,575	857,125	180,583
Barley -----	7,256	194,806	57,349
Rye -----	125	2,006	1,181
Buckwheat -----	2	37	26

		Tons.	
Clover -----	4,421	6,539	27,589
Timothy -----	25,554	42,545	172,638
Millet and Hungarian -----	363	812	2,690
Alfalfa -----	1	2	8
Wild hay -----	4,287	8,091	32,455

		Bushels.	
Clover seed -----	826	971	5,865
Timothy seed -----	1,791	10,347	9,515
Potatoes -----	---	105,265	26,752

Sweet potatoes -----	936	875
Sweet corn -----	5,221	1,897
Apples -----	-----	13,590
Peaches -----	-----	136
Plums -----	-----	2,687
Cherries -----	-----	2,871
Berries -----	-----	7,508
Grapes -----	-----	2,074

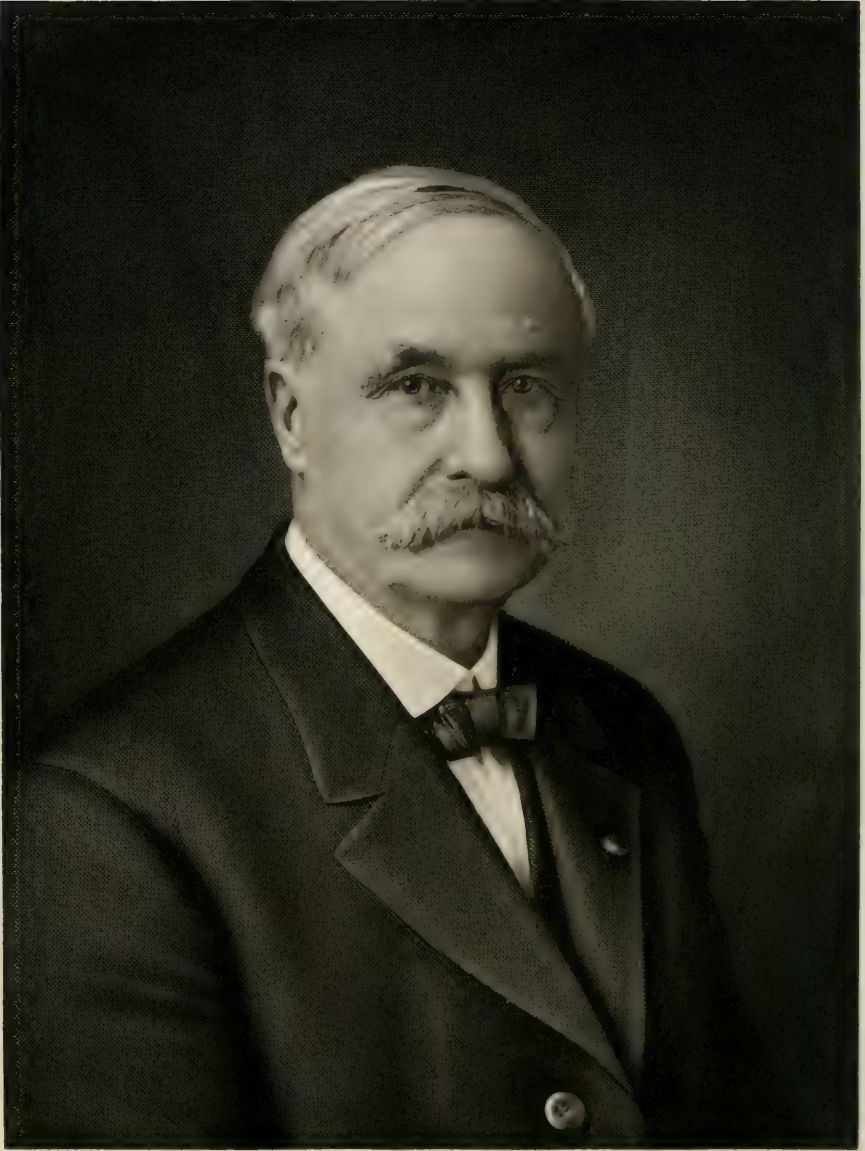
CENSUS 1905.

Cattle -----	47,850	Value -----	\$946,829
Horses and mules -----	11,485	Value -----	686,798
Swine -----	63,439	Value -----	392,782
Sheep -----	1,538	Value -----	9,304
Wool, pounds -----	4,118	Value -----	822
Chickens -----	184,439	Value -----	53,587
Other fowls -----	7,748	Value -----	5,540
Eggs, dozens -----	623,758	Value -----	79,377
Dairy products -----	-----	Value -----	276,971
Vegetables -----	-----	Value -----	11,652

County revenue for year ending December 31, 1904-----\$162,598.01

County expenses, same period ----- 155,710.48

Militia, 1905, 2,540.



Chas Van Gorder

BIOGRAPHICAL

CHARLES VAN GORDER.

We of a later generation who are enjoying the comforts and even the luxuries of this modern-day civilization owe much to the earlier pioneers; in fact, it is difficult to place a proper estimate upon their services for the benefit of the generations who follow after them. They blazed the trails and bore the brunt of the first hard and difficult battle in the redemption of a wilderness. Their foresight and optimism enabled them to see into the distant future and vision the productive and fertile farms, the beautiful towns and cities, the grid-ironing the country with the steam railroads; all of which were to transform the wide stretches of prairie lands and the rolling hills into a veritable storehouse of wealth which would afford sustenance for innumerable thousands. It was the pioneer who transported his family and meager possessions by horse-wagon or slow-moving ox-team from the haunts of civilization across the lonely stretches to the far-distant uninhabited country and there erected his cabin on the spot of his choice. He came, he saw, he conquered, despite the vicissitudes and hardships which of necessity were the lot of him and his family. He likewise reaped his reward in the inevitable prosperity which followed in the wake of the settlement of the new country. This was no more than his just desert. A high type of the pioneer is found in the person of the man whose name heads this review, Capt. Charles Van Gorder, one of the pioneer settlers and bankers of Audubon county, who has resided in this county for fifty-four years.

During his long residence in Audubon county Captain Van Gorder has seen the land transformed from grass and flower-covered prairie and hill lands into a smiling landscape of fertile farms and thriving towns. He has seen the trail succeeded by the old stagecoach; in turn he has seen the stagecoach supplanted by the steam railway and the automobile coming as a more modern means of conveyance, and very properly is one of the most highly honored and respected citizens in the county.

Charles Van Gorder, vice-president of the First National Bank of Audubon, this county, was born in Delaware county, New York, on January 23, 1837, the direct descendant of an old Holland family which figured in the colonial life of the Empire state. He is the son of Simon Van Gorder, whose grandgather, John Van Gorder, was born in the Dutch settlement of Delaware county, New York, in the ancestral home of the family. John Van Gorder was the father of William, John, Abram, Isaac, Lawrence, Albert and Manuel Van Gorder. Lawrence Van Gorder, the father of Simon Van Gorder, resided in Orange and Ulster counties of New York. His other sons were Hiram, Charles, John, Lawrence and Calvin, all of whom lived to be over ninety years of age. Four of the sons of John Van Gorder settled in the Lake county of New York state.

Simon Van Gorder, upon attaining his majority, moved to Delaware county, New York, and thence, in 1843, to Bradford county, Pennsylvania, where he died in October, 1890. His wife was Jane Fish, a native of New York, daughter of Isaac Fish, a native of Connecticut, who settled in Delaware county, New York, early in the nineteenth century. To Simon and Jane (Fish) Van Gorder were born the following children: Maria Antoinette, deceased; Mrs. Lorane Hodge, deceased; Billings, of Chemung county, New York; Charles, of whom this chronicle treats; John, deceased; R. B., a resident of Chemung county, New York; Mrs. Sarah J. Kirkpatrick, residing in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, and H. Wallace, a citizen of Chemung county, New York.

Charles Van Gorder was reared on a wilderness farm, he having been but six years of age when his father removed to the wilds of Bradford county, Pennsylvania, and entered on the task of carving a farm from the dense forests. There were no school facilities in this primitive country and Charles did not attend school until he had attained the age of seventeen years. This schooling was very limited, however, and he did not succeed in securing the education which his ambition craved. It is a fact that he did not finish his education until after he came to the West, and he attended school for two years after he had attained the age of thirty years. When he was nineteen years of age, Charles Van Gorder left home with the parental blessing and little else to fortify himself with, and migrated to Henry county, Illinois. In the spring of 1857 he made the long overland journey to Kansas. Kansas, at this period of her history, was earning the sobriquet of "bleeding Kansas" and was the fighting ground of Abolitionist and slaveholding advocate. The young adventurer saw troublous times during his stay in that territory, and after traveling over the western country for some

time he settled in Bates county, Missouri. He resided in Missouri for three years, or until 1860, in which year he came to Iowa, choosing Audubon county as his place of residence, and settled in the town of Exira. During his long residence in Audubon county, Mr. Van Gorder has made three trips across the plains to Pike's Peak and return.

In 1861 Charles Van Gorder engaged in the manufacture of bricks in Exira and was doing a thriving business in the sale and manufacture of his product to the incoming settlers and homesteaders, when the President called for troops with which to quell the rebellion in the Southern states. Mr. Van Gorder, in whose veins flowed the blood of a long line of sturdy American ancestors and lovers of the Union, was one of the brave sons of Iowa to respond in 1862. He enlisted on August 22, 1862, in Company B, Thirty-ninth Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and served for two years and ten months. His field service was with his regiment in Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia. The principal engagements in which he fought were at Parker's Cross Roads, Tennessee; Cherokee Station, Alabama; Resaca, Georgia, and Altona Pass. During the latter engagement he was wounded in the left foot and invalided for six months. Entering the service as a private, he presently was promoted to the position of a corporal and rapidly rose to be a sergeant, then a lieutenant and finally a captain, which was his rank when he was mustered out with Sherman's army at Washington, D. C., following the grand review. Captain Van Gorder was paid off and received his final discharge at Clinton, Iowa.

After the war Captain Van Gorder resumed the manufacture of bricks in Exira, varying the time with a trip across the plains to Pike's Peak in 1867. He also for a time clerked in a general store in Exira. In the year 1869 he was elected to the office of county treasurer and served for two terms of two years each. From 1874 to 1876 he was engaged in the real estate business. In the year 1876 his banking career began and he started the Audubon County Bank at Exira. In 1878, when Audubon was laid out and building had commenced in the new county-seat town, he decided that it would prove to be a better location for his banking business. Consequently the business was moved to the new city. Captain Van Gorder erected a building in Audubon and conducted a private bank until 1893, when the First National Bank succeeded the Audubon County Bank. Captain Van Gorder also is interested in the Exchange Bank at Exira, and for some time he has occupied the post of vice-president of the institution of which he is the founder. He has large land holdings in Iowa, the Dakotas, Canada and Texas.

On November 28, 1869, Charles Van Gorder was married to Laura J. Delahoyde, daughter of an early settler in Audubon county, and to this union have been born four children, three of whom are yet living, namely: Edwin S., president of the First National Bank of Audubon, this county; Sydney S., also of Audubon, and Lowene J. Kirk, the wife of Willing D. Kirk, of the great soap manufacturing company of the same name, and a resident of Glencoe, near Chicago. Robert Bruce Van Gorder, the deceased son, died in Audubon in 1907.

Politically, Capt. Charles Van Gorder, estimable gentleman and pioneer settler, has always been allied with the Republican party, and takes a keen interest in political affairs, though never having been a seeker after public office, except on the occasion of his election to the office of county treasurer. He is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, in which order he has attained to the chapter and the commandery, and takes a just pride in his membership in Allison Post, Grand Army of the Republic, of Audubon.

All honor is due this citizen who assisted in settling up the county in the pioneer days and was one of the few men to enlist in the service of the Union during the days of the civil conflict. This volume would certainly be incomplete were not the foregoing tribute and review inserted in its pages. The biographies of such men as Charles Van Gorder, pioneer settler and banker, Union veteran and public-spirited citizen, but enhance the value of a work of this character and serve and as inspiration to encourage the young men of the present and coming generations.

HALLECK J. MANTZ.

The record of the gentleman whose name introduces this article is replete with well-defined purposes which, carried to successful issue, in connection with the development of inherited talents, have won for him an influential place in the ranks of his profession and high personal standing among his fellow citizens. His life work has been one of unceasing industry and perseverance, and the systematic and honorable methods which he has ever followed have resulted, not only in gaining the confidence of those with whom he has had dealings, but also in the building up of a remunerative legal practice. Well grounded in the principles of jurisprudence, and, by instinct and habit, a constant reader and student, Mr. Mantz commands the

respect of his professional colleagues, while his career as an attorney and public official has reflected honor upon himself and dignity upon the vocation to which he has devoted his efforts.

Halleck J. Mantz, attorney and mayor of Audubon, this county, was born on September 23, 1877, in Iowa county, Iowa, the son of Samuel L. and Harriett (Eddy) Mantz, natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio, respectively. Samuel L. Mantz was born in Pennsylvania in 1848, the son of Jonas Mantz, who is still living at the great age of ninety-four years, he having been born in 1821. The Mantz family is of colonial descent, a very old American family, the grandfather of Jonas Mantz having fought in the American War of Independence, a soldier under General Washington. His great-grandfather was a soldier in the French and Indian War.

Jonas Mantz and family migrated from the ancestral home in Pennsylvania to Iowa in the early fifties of the last century. Jonas and a partner tramped afoot across the state, from Rock Island to Kanesville, or Council Bluffs. After viewing the country around about he decided to settle in Keokuk county and removed his family to Iowa in 1859. For a great many years Jonas Mantz has been engaged in the live-stock business and his activities have ranged over the entire country. He specializes in fine-bred stallions and has been thus engaged since the late fifties.

Samuel Mantz made his home in Iowa county until 1881, in which year he came to Audubon county and bought a farm in Leroy township, on which he lived until 1902. He was the owner of a half section of land, which he sold upon his retirement in 1902 and moved to Audubon. To Samuel Mantz and wife were born eight children, namely: Everett, a farmer of Hobart, Oklahoma; Frank, a publisher at Manning, Iowa; Halleck J.; William a farmer of Belle Plaine, Canada; Clara, who married Frank Taylor, a farmer located near Guthrie Center; Theodore, a practicing attorney, located at Des Moines, Iowa; Mrs. Sadie Schmidt, of Leroy township, this county, and Albert, a railroad telegraph operator at Kimballton, Iowa.

Halleck J. Mantz was reared on a farm and received his primary education in the district school, following which he completed the course in the Audubon high school. He then taught school for three years and in 1901 entered the law school of Drake University, graduating from this excellent institution in the spring of 1904, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Laws. After his admission to the bar, Mr. Mantz began the practice of law in Audubon and has achieved a gratifying success.

In August, 1910, Halleck J. Mantz was married to Dorothy Sandberg, which union has been without issue. Mr. Mantz is a Republican in politics

and is prominent in the councils of his party. He was elected to the office of county attorney in 1907, and after serving for a term of two years he was re-elected in 1909, serving from January, 1908 to January, 1912, inclusive. His faithful discharge of the duties involved in this official position was such as to commend him favorably to the people of the county. He was appointed mayor of Audubon in July, 1913, and was elected to the office in the spring of 1914. Mayor Mantz is an aggressive and energetic public official, who is strongly in favor of municipal improvements, and is a constant and consistent "booster" and advocate for a greater and better Audubon. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and is fraternally connected with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, having attained to the chapter in that order, and is a member of the Eastern Star lodge. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen and the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

OTTO WITTHAUER.

In nearly every community are individuals who, by innate ability and sheer force of character, rise above their fellows and win for themselves public honors and preferment, occupying conspicuous places in the public esteem. Such a one is the well-known gentleman whose name appears above, who has been prominently identified with the history of Audubon county for a number of years, during which period his life has been closely interwoven with the growth and development of the county. He has been active in business affairs, as well as having taken a prominent part in the official administration of the county government, and his career as a progressive and enterprising citizen has been synonymous with all that is honorable and upright in citizenship.

Otto Witthauer, former county auditor of Audubon county and present representative from this county in the Iowa General Assembly, was born in Woodward, Center county, Pennsylvania, on October 11, 1857, the son of Herman and Louisa (Flahl) Witthauer, both of whom were natives of Germany, where they were married, emigrating to America in May, 1854. They resided in Pennsylvania until April 5, 1865, at which time they set out for the long trip to the newer and cheaper lands of western Iowa. The family located on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres near Guthrie Center, Guthrie county, and resided thereon until 1884, in which year Herman Witthauer purchased the adjoining farm, where he spent the rest of his life, his death

occurring in 1905. Mrs. Witthauer died in 1901. They were the parents of eight children, namely: Louis, who is tilling the home farm in Guthrie county; Ida, who died in infancy; Otto, with whom this review directly treats; Hugo, who died in infancy; Bruna, who died at the age of six years; Thomas, a resident of Council Bluffs; Udo, of Wellsville, Missouri, and Edward, formerly a citizen of Olathe, Kansas, now deceased.

Otto Witthauer was reared to young manhood on the pioneer farm in Guthrie county, and after receiving what instruction was available in the local district school, he attended the county high school at Panora, Guthrie county, Iowa. He fitted himself for the profession of teaching and taught for four years in his home county, after which, in the fall of 1880, he entered the employ of Captain Stuart, an extensive grain and lumber merchant. Mr. Witthauer first began his work for Captain Stuart in the latter's lumber yards at Guthrie Center, but was soon afterward transferred to Monteith. In April, 1881, he was placed in charge of Captain Stuart's business at Exira, this county. The nature of his occupation gave him a wide acquaintance throughout the county and he made many warm and faithful friends. He became his party's candidate for county recorder in the fall of 1884, was elected to this office, and served for one term of two years. Upon the expiration of his term of office he returned to Exira and engaged in the mercantile business on his own account. He was unfortunate, for in 1887 fire destroyed his building and wiped out the stock of goods. He did not attempt again to start in business, but re-entered Captain Stuart's employ and was thus engaged until Stuart disposed of his business in the fall of 1888, at which time Mr. Witthauer embarked in the lumber business for himself, continuing that business until 1890, when he sold out and engaged in the hardware and harness business for two years, after which he was employed by the Davenport Syrup Refining Company as grain buyer at Exira. He remained in this latter position for six years, or until 1898, the firm in the meantime being incorporated with the Davenport Elevator Company. For a period of one and one-half years, following 1898 Mr. Witthauer was employed as manager for the Fullerton Lumber Company at Exira. From 1899 to 1909 his occupations were varied and he then made a trip to Montana, where he was superintendent of a saw-mill and lumber company for one year. He returned home in 1910 and in that year was elected to the office of auditor of Audubon county.

In June, 1883, Otto Witthauer was married to Hattie Bowman, of this county, to which union three children have been born, Bessie, a teacher of music in the public schools of Corwith, Iowa; Omar, at home, and Leo, who died in infancy.

Mr. Witthauer is a member of the Christian church and is a consistent supporter of that faith. He is fraternally allied with the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Witthauer is a staunch Democrat in his political affiliations and stands high in the councils of his party. He was elected to the office of county auditor in the fall of 1910 and was re-elected in 1912, serving two full terms. He was a most capable official and enjoyed the confidence and esteem of the people of Audubon county, not only in his capacity of commissioner but as a citizen who was held in high regard by all who knew him. Mr. Witthauer is now a representative from Audubon county in the state Legislature, having been elected in 1914, in which honorable public capacity he has made a fine reputation throughout the state.

JOHN A. NASH.

With affectionate and tender interest men and women of the present generation, who are enjoying the comforts and advantages made possible by those whose works have ended, revert to the salient points of their careers. The service of one's fellows is the keynote of honorable and efficient citizenship, and when we turn the pages of personal history and realize for the first time how far one noble man or one noble woman may influence for good the currents of life in a community, we are struck with a sense of our own personal responsibilities as citizens of this republic and as factors in the community life of whatever sphere we may dominate. It is not the man who makes the loudest pretensions of greatness who is really great, but rather the man who in a modest and humble spirit meets the obligations which opportunity puts in his pathway. These thoughts are especially suggested by the career of the late John A. Nash, who, until his death on October 28, 1913, was properly regarded as the first citizen of Audubon.

The late John A. Nash was fortunate in having been born of parents who during his youth set for him a worthy example of service. Furthermore, he was fortunate in having been provided in his youth with exceptional educational advantages, which equipped him for a large career of influence. Moreover, in Audubon county at least, he had the advantage of having come here as a young man at the very beginning of the county's settlement, the beginning of its agricultural development; the beginning of its rise to distinction among the sister counties of the great Hawkeye com-



Engraved by F. G. Williams, N.Y.

John A. Nash

monwealth. What he did, however, from the beginning of his career in this county is what hundreds of other men similarly situated might have failed to do. He was able to see his opportunities and he was possessed of the inclination and ability to take advantage of them.

Though his last days here were darkened by personal sorrow at the loss of a loved member of his family, he nevertheless bore with fortitude the exacting demands of the omniscient and omnipotent Father and remained until his death an optimist in sorrow, one who could see behind the dark clouds the silver lining that lay beyond. John A. Nash excelled as a lawyer, he was superb as a citizen, patient, kind and unselfish as a father and husband.

Born on May 9, 1854, at Des Moines, Iowa, the late John A. Nash was the son of Rev. John A. Nash, D. D., a Baptist minister who came to Iowa, locating at Des Moines about 1850, when that splendid city of today was no more than a trading post on the outpost of civilization. There he lived for many years, and there the greatest work of his life was performed. He went to Des Moines as a minister in the church, and after some years established Des Moines College, an institution which has had a profound influence on the life of this section, and of which for many years he was the president. Both he and his good wife, whose maiden name was Mary E. Hepburn, were natives of New York state and migrated from New York to Iowa. Both are now deceased. But their good work goes on, not only in the reflected goodness of their distinguished son, the subject of this sketch, but in the lives of their other children and in the lives of the hundreds who came under the spell of their beneficent influence. To Rev. John A. and Mary E. (Hepburn) Nash were born three children besides John A., namely: Janet C., Nettie M. and Harriet N.

John A. Nash, who was the eldest of these children, received his elementary education in the schools of Des Moines, and was graduated from Des Moines College. It was there, under the tutelage of his father and the influence of the church that his early ideals, aspirations and ambitions were formulated. Naturally the influence of christianity was predominant in Des Moines College, and as a student in the institution of which his father was president John A. Nash came under this influence. It is no doubt true that there, in association with his fellow students, his notions of real life and the purposes of the individual in society became fixed.

Early in life John A. Nash decided to equip himself for the law, and, after completing the classisal course at Des Moines College, he entered the Iowa College of Law, now a part of Drake University, and subsequently

was graduated with high honors. When his collegiate training was finished he was equipped to practice his profession in the largest cities of the East, since his training was in no wise inferior to that given in the larger universities of the East. But instead of returning to the home of his father, as many other boys might have done, he choose the little town of Stewart, Iowa, as a place where he might begin his practice. There for one year he read law with a Mr. Fogg, and, after gaining some practical experience, the next year formed a partnership with B. S. Phelps and removed to Exira, this county. But Exira was to be only a temporary seat of his professional activities. Audubon at that time was not counted as a city, but upon its establishment as the county seat, Mr. Nash removed to Audubon and continued in the practice of his profession until July, 1913, when he sold the practice and office to Arnold, Ross & Rasmussen.

Two years after beginning the practice of law at Exira, John A. Nash was married on September 1, 1880, to Gertrude Russell, daughter of George B. and Jane (Hutchinson) Russell, who were natives of Scotland and New York state, respectively. Mrs. Nash's father came to America when a mere lad, and after remaining for a time in New York, moved to Wisconsin, where he married and eventually, in 1871, settled at Exira, this county. George B. Russell was a pioneer merchant in what was then a straggling village on the broad prairie. Some years ago he passed away in Audubon, but his widow is still living in California. They had four children: Mrs. Agnes R. Stotts; Charles H., who died in 1898; Mrs. Gertrude Nash, who was born on February 3, 1863, and James F., of Ft. Dodge, Iowa.

To John A. and Gertrude (Russell) Nash two daughters were born, Beatrice, born on June 11, 1881, and Gretchen Russell, August 25, 1883. The former is the wife of Nelson W. Cowles, of Ottumwa, Iowa.

The last years of the late John A. Nash were darkened by the sickness and death of his younger daughter, Gretchen Russell, who died at Monrovia, California, on March 23, 1913, after an illness of two years. It was only seven months later that Mr. Nash himself died. Mrs. Nash spent the last two years of her daughter's life with the latter in California, during which time Mr. Nash made several trips to that state. The news of Gretchen Nash's death brought sorrow to a large circle of friends in Audubon, Iowa. The remains were brought back to Audubon by her parents and the funeral services were conducted by A. B. Miller.

The late John A. Nash will go down in the history of this section as one of the leading citizens of Audubon, where he had a host of friends. Having gone to Audubon in the first place in the employ of the Chicago,

Rock Island & Pacific Railroad to quiet the titles to land owned by the company, in Audubon, Shelby and Carroll counties, Mr. Nash had enjoyed, up to within a few months before his death, when he abandoned the practice of law, a large legal business in this section of Iowa. He was a man of quiet and unassuming manners and retiring disposition, who avoided all display of whatever kind. He did much for the city where he lived so long, which his surviving fellow townsmen remember with personal admiration for the memory of the man. Although he served with distinguished ability as mayor of Audubon, perhaps his most helpful service was performed as a private citizen. He was prominent in the fraternal circles of the city, having been a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, in which order he had attained to the chapter and commandery, the Scottish Rite and the Mystic Shrine. He was also at the time of his death a past chancellor of the Audubon lodge of the Knights of Pythias. Though his wife and daughters were Presbyterians, Mr. Nash himself was not a member of the church. Mrs. Nash, who survives her husband, is a fine type of the broad-minded, cultured and refined woman, who enjoys the sincerest respect and esteem of the entire community.

Other men perhaps will perform worthy service in this great county; men are doing it today, in fact, but it is doubtful whether any other man will ever perform a service greater than that of the late John A. Nash, who, a man that might have fitted into the cultured and exacting social life of the East, chose as his sphere of action a straggling village on these broad prairies. His work is done, but his influence will live as long as this favored section endures.

ELLA M. STEARNS.

The peculiar rewards accruing to a person who follows the profession of teaching for a long number of years are not great, but the honor and satisfaction of knowing that one has accomplished a great deal of good and molded many minds to the right way of living and thinking, more than compensates for the lack of large compensation. While it is true that the rank and file of teachers are not paid in the same ratio that those who follow other learned professions are rewarded, yet there are, as in other vocations, high places for those who are deserving. "There is always room at the top," is a tried and true saying, and it might be added that the top is never overcrowded with the really capable. One of the recognized leaders in the

teaching profession, one who has risen to a high place in her chosen life work, is Ella M. Stearns, county superintendent of schools for Audubon county.

Ella M. Stearns was born in Oxford county, Maine, daughter of Stephen B. and Mary (Gordon) Stearns, the former of whom was a native of Oxford county, Maine, and the latter a native of Freyburg, Maine. Following the death of Stephen B. Stearns, his family, in 1874, emigrated to Michigan, and two years later, in 1876, the sons, Stephen, Sewell and H. Wilbur, came to Audubon county in order to make a permanent home. Mrs. Stearns came on later to join them in making a home and died at the home in Luccocks Grove not long after her arrival in the county. Stephen and Sewell went further west after some years of residence here and Stephen now resides in Kansas City and Sewell is located in Tacoma, Washington. There were nine children in the Stearns family, all of whom but four remained in the East. These children, besides the subject of this sketch, are George, residing at Spring Creek, Pennsylvania; J. C., living at Lovell Center, Maine; Mrs. Carrie Leighton, of Indianapolis; Mrs. Belle Hurlman, of Great Falls, Maine; Mrs. Sarah Stearne, of Lovell Center, Maine; Stephen, a resident of Kansas City; Sewell, of Tacoma, Washington, and H. W., formerly a resident of Audubon county, who recently died, was one of the well-known citizens of the county, and left four children, Virgil, Mereber, Helen and Russell.

Ella M. Stearns was educated in the high school of Ludington, Michigan, the Bloomfield Normal School, and the State Teachers College at Cedar Falls, Iowa. She studied in the various schools and colleges while teaching and practically made her own way. Miss Stearns taught her first school in a board shanty in Douglas township, Audubon county. This shanty was put up roughly and was covered with tar-paper roofing, a good example of the makeshift school buildings of the time. Her next school was taught in an old granary, which sufficed for a temple of learning in Viola township. She also taught the "Jack Whipple" school in Lincoln township and taught likewise in rural schools in Leroy and Melville township. She became so well and favorably known throughout the county as an able and forceful teacher that her services became greatly in demand and positions were offered her in various parts of the county. While teaching in the Exira schools, a position which had come without solicitation on her part, she was offered a situation in the Audubon schools. She accepted and for a number of years was at the head of the city grammar school, later serving as principal of the high school and teacher of English. Miss Stearns served for twenty-

three years in the Audubon schools, and it was only natural that she should eventually assume the highest position in educational circles possible within the gift of the people of Audubon county. In January of 1907 she became county superintendent of schools for Audubon county and has since then continuously served in this important capacity. During her administration the public schools have made marked progress and modern methods are in evidence in practically every district in the county.

Miss Stearns is a member of the Presbyterian church. She takes an active part in the affairs of the "P. E. O." and the Columbian Club and the Woman's Club of Audubon and is universally esteemed by all classes in Audubon county for her many excellent qualities and her ability as an educator. Despite the fact that her teaching experience has been longer than most teachers of the county, she has never allowed her energy and determination to flag, or herself to retrograde intellectually or mentally, and she has kept pace with the latest developments in her profession.

CHARLES SUNBERG.

Specific mention is made of many of the worthy citizens of Audubon county, Iowa, within the pages of this book. Citizens who have figured in the growth and development of this favored locality and whose interests are identified with its every phase of progress. Each has contributed in his special sphere of activity to the well-being of the community in which he resides and to the advancement of its moral and legitimate growth. Among this number is Charles Sunberg, to whose career peculiar interest attaches from the fact that a good part of his life has been spent in Audubon county, and that he is now filling one of the responsible offices within the gift of the people of this county, being the present efficient and popular sheriff of Audubon county.

Charles Sunberg was born on a farm in Johnson county, Iowa, on September 9, 1871, son of Henry and Hannah (Ahrend) Sunberg, natives of Germany. Henry Sunberg was born in 1843, the son of a farmer, and with his wife came to America in the spring of 1871, settling on a farm near Iowa City, in Johnson county, this state, where he resided until 1885, a period of fourteen years, after which he came to Audubon county and settled on a farm of two hundred and forty acres in Melville township. In 1907 he moved to a farm south of Audubon and in the spring of 1914 retired

and moved to Audubon, at that time being the owner of two hundred and eighty acres. The children born to Henry and Anna (Ahrend) Sunberg were seven in number, namely: Fred C., who lives near the old home place; Charles, the subject of this sketch; Frank, now living retired in Audubon; Mrs. Minnie Owen, living in Viola township; John, living in Hamlin township; Henry, Jr., of Viola township, and Mrs. Anna Leflar, who lives on the old home place.

Charles Sunberg attended school in Johnson county, and on coming to Audubon county assisted his father on the farm until he attained his majority. He then rented a farm in the eastern part of Melville township for four years, after which he took up contracting and building, with headquarters in Audubon. In 1911 he was appointed deputy sheriff, and served two years in that office. In the fall of 1912 Mr. Sunberg was selected sheriff and was re-elected for the second term in the fall of 1914, now filling that office very efficiently.

On June 21, 1905, Charles Sunberg was married to Clemency Leib, the daughter of Ernest and Louisa (Frieberg) Leib, natives of Germany, who settled in Michigan after coming to this country and were there married. From that region they removed to Montgomery county, Iowa, and in 1844 they came to Audubon county, locating on the farm, where Ernest Lieb died in 1902. His widow, who lives in Audubon, was born in Germany in 1838, and emigrated to Michigan with her mother when a young woman and was there married. Mrs. Sunberg is one of ten children, four sons and six daughters, as follow: Leopold, who lives in South Dakota; Robert, of Guthrie county, Iowa; Richard, of Audubon county; Otto, of Guthrie county; Frank, who was killed in Audubon in the spring of 1904; Mrs. Emma Lee, who lives in Guthrie county; Mrs. Dena Lee, of Sac City; Mrs. Anna Brown, of Sac City; Mrs. G. C. Dettmann, of Valley Junction, Iowa, and Clemency, who married Mr. Sunberg.

Charles Sunberg is an ardent Democrat and for many years has been active in the councils of that party in Audubon county. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. and Mrs. Sunberg are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and are active in the affairs of that church and of the Sunday school.

Sheriff Charles Sunberg naturally is well known throughout the length and breadth of Audubon county, and is a man highly respected for his many good qualities of head and heart, being held in the warmest esteem by all who know him.

FRANK KREAMER.

Not too often can be repeated the life history of one who has lived so honorable and useful a life as Frank Kreamer, the present efficient postmaster of Exira, Iowa. As a private citizen and as a public official, he has been a pronounced success. There are individuals in nearly every community who, by reason of their ability and force of character, rise above the heads of the masses and command the esteem of their fellow men. These individuals are characterized by perseverance and a directing spirit, two virtues that never fail. They always make their presence felt and the vigor of their strong personalities serves as a stimulus to others. To this enterprising and energetic class, Frank Kreamer very properly belongs.

Frank Kreamer was born in Cass county, Iowa, on August 23, 1879, the son of George and Elvina (Cahoon) Kreamer, both natives of Pennsylvania. George Kreamer left Pennsylvania when a young man with his parents, and located in Illinois, where he farmed with his father. When the Civil War broke out, he enlisted in the Forty-sixth Illinois Regiment, Volunteer Infantry, and served about a year. He then returned home and after his marriage came to Iowa, settling in Cass county, where he purchased a farm, remaining there until 1891, in which year he moved to Exira, this county, where he purchased a grocery store, in partnership with F. L. Odell, the business being conducted under the firm name of Kreamer & Odell for nine years, at the end of which time Mr. Kreamer retired, his death occurring in 1904. His wife had preceded him to the grave in 1893. They were the parents of four children, Ida, who married F. L. Odell; Edna, who married Clarence Maisling; Salome, who married Frank Shraner, and Frank, who is the subject of this sketch.

Frank Kreamer received his elementary education in the schools of Cass county, and at Exira, and was graduated from the Exira high school, after leaving which he attended Ames College for three years. After leaving college, he enlisted as a soldier in the Spanish-American War, enlisting at Des Moines, Iowa, in Company F., Fifty-second Iowa Volunteer Infantry, in which he served six months, being mustered out on November 30, 1898. Upon his return home he went west, where he remained for a few years, after which he returned to Exira, where he had charge of a mail route for three years, at the end of which time he engaged in the coal and feed business for one year, and on August 1, 1911, became postmaster of Exira and is still occupying that position.

On August 8, 1908, Frank Kreamer was married to Maude Hamlin,

daughter of Nathaniel Douglas and Elva (Crane) Hamlin, to which union three children have been born, Elva, Mona and Kathleen.

Mr. Kreamer is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He is an ardent Republican and is influential in the councils of that party in this county. He is a good citizen and well deserves the words of commendation, confidence and esteem which have been bestowed upon him by his fellow citizens.

GEORGE W. HOOVER.

George W. Hoover belongs to that class of men who win in life's battles by sheer force of personality and determination, coupled with soundness of judgment and keen discrimination. In whatever Mr. Hoover has undertaken, and he has been engaged in many lines of activity, he has shown himself to be a man of ability and honor. He is always ready to lend his aid in defending the principles affecting the public good. He has ably and conscientiously performed all the duties of a public and private citizen, and has conducted himself in such a manner as to win the unqualified indorsement and support of his business associates and his fellow citizens.

George W. Hoover was born in Johnson county, Iowa, on January 14, 1856, a son of George and Catherine (Horton) Hoover, who were both natives of Pennsylvania. They were married in the latter state and came to Iowa, shortly after their marriage, settling in Johnson county, where they spent the rest of their lives. To George and Catherine (Horton) Hoover were born five children, Charles, Emily, Levi, George W. and Maria, all of whom are living with the exception of Levi.

George W. Hoover was educated in the common schools of Johnson county, Iowa, receiving a good common-school education, and after leaving school, took up farming as a vocation, which he followed for several years, being also incidentally engaged in carpenter work and contracting for some time. Mr. Hoover was not only a successful farmer, but he made a success of the contracting business as well. In 1888 he engaged in the hardware business in the city of Audubon and continued in this line for twenty years, at the expiration of which time he disposed of his hardware business. In the meantime he had built up a large and lucrative trade in the retail sale of hardware and implements under the firm name of the Audubon Hardware Company. At the present time Mr. Hoover is engaged in the furniture and undertaking business, and has one of the best stores in Audubon.



J. W. Hoover

George W. Hoover was married in 1880 to Maggie Reynolds, the daughter of John and Lucy Reynolds, both natives of Johnson county, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Hoover are the parents of four children: May, who married W. W. Waldron, and Karl, Jessie and Jessamine, who are at home.

Mr. Hoover is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is also a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Atlantic. He is a Democrat, but has never been active in political affairs, and has never held office. He has been largely and actively interested in public affairs, however, and was president of the Audubon County Agriculture Society for thirteen years, during which time he developed it into a strong organization. Mr. Hoover also has had charge of Maple Grove cemetery for the past eight years and has cleaned it up and added very much to its attractiveness.

CHARLES BAGLEY.

Professional success results from merit. Frequently in commercial life one may come into possession of a lucrative business through inheritance or gift, but in what is known as the learned professions advancement is gained only through painstaking and long-continued effort. The lawyer or physician does not enjoy the privilege of exploiting his profession in order to gain a clientele. He must thoroughly prepare himself and be educated broadly in order that his mental development may be such as to enable him to quickly grasp the points of a cause presented for his consideration. He must be well grounded in the deep, underlying principles of his profession; whereas, the business man or merchant often engages in trade or commerce with little or no preparation other than his native ability. It frequently happens that members of the legal profession are called upon to take charge of extensive business undertakings, lawyers being required in the conduct of great corporations and kindred concerns on account of their thorough, and well-grounded knowledge of business law and ethics. As a general rule, they are excellent financiers and not infrequently achieve success in other lines which may properly be conducted along with their legal business. A high type of successful attorney, a prominent member of the bar of western Iowa, is found in the person of Charles Bagley, of Audubon, whose name forms the caption of this biographical sketch.

Charles Bagley was born on May 29, 1854, in West Liberty, Cedar

county, Iowa, son of William A. and Lucretia (Burgan) Bagley, natives of the old Buckeye state. The Bagley family is a very old one in America, Charles Bagley tracing his lineage back to Mary Chilton, who came over from England in the "Mayflower." The father of William A. Bagley emigrated from Vermont to Ohio and thence to Iowa, where he became the owner of the land on which the city of West Liberty was built. This tract was deeded to William A. Bagley by his mother after his father's death. William A. Bagley, after he grew to manhood, married and settled on a farm in Muscatine county, after a residence in Cedar county, where Charles was born. In 1873 he removed to Cass county and tilled a fine farm there until his retirement to the city of Atlantic, where he died in 1909.

To William A. and Lucretia (Burgan) Bagley were born the following children: W. F., of Topeka, Kansas; Bert, a farmer near Atlantic, Iowa; Mrs. Mary Smedley, of Randolph, Nebraska; Mrs. Hattie Alexander, a resident of Colby, Kansas; Mrs. Kate Alexander, of Atlantic, Iowa; Mrs. Sallie Ellett, living at Guthrie Center, Guthrie county, Iowa; Charles, the subject of this sketch; Emma, who died at the age of twenty-five years; Louise, of Atlantic, and Scott, residing in Oregon.

Charles Bagley was educated in the district school and at a select school at Walton Junction, Iowa, later attending the high school at Atlantic. From his boyhood days, he practically made his own way and educated himself in preparation for the practice of law. The only assistance that he received from his father was a team of horses. This team was given him to assist him in farming. After attending the high school, Mr. Bagley taught school and farmed in order to raise money with which to defray the expenses of a higher education. He managed to gain a liberal education, not only in literature and the sciences but in the legal department of the State University as well, and was graduated from the collegiate department of the State University, and also was graduated, with the degree of Bachelor of Laws, in the State University at Iowa City in 1881. He taught a term of school in Nebraska in 1881 and then located in Audubon, where he became one of the pioneer attorneys of the new and growing town. He began the practice of law and also took up the real estate and insurance business and has been successful in his various enterprises. He also added an abstract department which he is yet conducting with the assistance of his two sons, who are now associated with him in the offices. Mr. Bagley has prospered and has a fair share of this world's goods. He

is the owner of a farm of two hundred and fifty-five acres in Audubon county, in addition to being the owner of considerable real estate.

In 1888, Charles Bagley was united in marriage with Amanda Williams, of Audubon, a native of Jasper county, Iowa, daughter of Richard Williams, to which union four children have been born, namely: Louis C., a graduate of the Audubon high school and the law college of the State University, who is now with his father in the law offices; Frank, also a graduate of the Audubon high school, likewise associated with his father, and Marion and Russell, students in the high school.

Mr. Bagley is a member of the Presbyterian church and contributes of his time and means to the support of that denomination. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias. He is a Republican, but has never been an office seeker nor sought political preferment to any extent. However, he fulfilled his civic obligations to his home town by serving two terms as mayor of Audubon. Otherwise, he has been content to take his place in the ranks of the mass of voters and vote for his favorite principles of government and for the most capable candidates who, in his estimation, were best fitted to fill the offices sought. Mr. Bagley is a cultured, well-read and broad-minded gentleman, who is highly esteemed by all who know him in his home community.

HARRY A. NORTHUP.

To write the personal records of men who have raised themselves from humble circumstances to positions of responsibility and trust in a community is no ordinary pleasure. Self-made men, men who have achieved success by reason of their personal qualities and who have left the impressions of their individualities upon the business and political life of their community; men who affect for good such institutions as are embraced in their spheres of usefulness unwittingly, perhaps, built monuments more enduring than marble obelisks or granite shafts. Such a man is Harry A. Northup, the present auditor of Audubon county, Iowa, member of the firm of Northrup Brothers, dealers in grain and live stock, one of the best-known citizens of Audubon county.

Harry A. Northup was born on February 7, 1876, on a farm in Johnson county, Iowa, son of Nathan and Harriet (Sherlock) Northup, the former of whom was a native of Vermont, and the latter a native of England.

Nathan Northup was born in 1817 and died in 1891. He was reared in Vermont and in early manhood migrated to Ohio, where he married, and in the sixties came to Iowa, locating in Johnson county, where his wife died and he married, secondly, Harriet Sherlock, who was born in England in 1835, the daughter of Thomas Sherlock, who located in Johnson county, Iowa, upon coming to this country, where he spent the rest of his life. Nathan Northup came to Audubon county in 1882, settling on a farm of eighty acres in Douglas township, where the remainder of his life was spent.

To Nathan and Harriet (Sherlock) Northup the following children were born: Ernest, deceased; Edwin, who lives at Vallesca, Iowa; Richard, ex-sheriff of this county; Mrs. Martha Ozer, of Franklin, Nebraska; Mrs. Mary Myers, deceased; George, who is a partner of his brother, Harry, in the grain and live stock business at Audubon; Mrs. Myra Holcomb, of Spokane, Washington; Jasper, of Audubon; Harry A., the subject of this sketch, and Mrs. Emma Norton, of Yale, Iowa. The mother of these children died on August 30, 1909, having survived her husband nearly twenty years.

Harry A. Northup was educated in the public schools of Douglass township, this county, and farmed with his brother on the home place, renting land until he became eighteen years of age. He then managed the farm until his widowed mother sold it, and after that returned to Johnson county, this state, where he worked for one season. In 1897 Mr. Northup married and moved to a farm in Cameron township, this county, where he remained for ten years. He then, for a little more than three years, bought and shipped grain at Ross, Iowa, for the Trans-Mississippi Grain Company, and in the spring of 1910 moved to Audubon, where he formed a partnership with his two brothers, George and Richard, in the grain and live-stock business, under the firm name of Northup Brothers.

On March 10, 1897, Harry A. Northup was married to Cora A. McCristal, of Audubon, daughter of William and Martha McCristal, both of whom are now deceased. To this happy union two children have been born, Hazel, born on January 24, 1898, and Merrill, July 27, 1900.

In the fall of 1914 Harry A. Northup was a candidate on the Democratic ticket for auditor of Audubon county and was triumphantly elected. He took the office of county auditor on January 1, 1915, and is now filling that office with credit to himself and with satisfaction to the people of Audubon county who elected him. Mr. Northup is a stanch Democrat and for many years has been active in the councils of his party. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Modern Woodmen of America.

SOREN MADSEN.

The career of Soren Madsen, a retired farmer of Greeley township, this county, and the president of the First National Bank of Exira, should serve as an inspiration to every young man. Mr. Madsen's youth was filled with few of the joys which fall within the experience of most boys of today. From the time he was eight years old he was compelled to support himself by the labor of his own hands. Coming to America when he was twenty years old, he took up quickly with the ways of his adopted country and in a comparatively brief period became a successful farmer and banker. He is now known throughout Audubon county as one of the most successful citizens of this part of the state. His career only goes to show what determination, industry and personal economy will accomplish. Many of Soren Madsen's fellow countrymen have made good in America, and they deserve unfailing credit for their achievements.

Soren Madsen was born in Denmark on February 7, 1861, son of Nels and Marie (Jacobsen) Madsen, both of whom were native-born citizens of Denmark. Nels Madsen was a farmer and worked as a farm hand until he came to America in 1885, joining his son, Soren, in Hamlin township, this county, where he purchased forty acres of land, which he farmed for a time. His wife died in 1887, and two years afterward, in 1889, he passed away. Nels and Marie (Jacobsen) Madsen had only two children, Soren and Marie, the latter of whom married Hans Rasmussen, who is now deceased, his widow living in Hamlin township. From the time Soren Madsen was eight years old, and after leaving school, he worked out as a farm hand until he came to America.

Upon arriving in this country, in 1881, at the age of twenty years, Soren Madsen located first at Avoca, Iowa. After working there for eleven months on a railroad, he went to Utah. In the fall of 1882, one year after his arrival in America, he began working in a smelter and mining camp, a position he held for two and one-half years, at the end of which time he came to Audubon county, where he purchased eighty acres of land in Hamlin township. By characteristic energy and good management, Mr. Madsen was able to increase his farm holdings to one hundred and sixty acres, after which he moved to Sharon township, where he lived for eleven years. Selling his farm property in Sharon township, Mr. Madsen purchased two hundred and forty-six acres in Greeley township, and engaged in general farming and stock raising until he retired. During all this period Mr. Madsen raised from a hundred and twenty-five to a hundred and fifty head of hogs every year, besides a carload

of cattle. In fact his experience in raising hogs and cattle was the basis of his success as a farmer.

On May 15, 1888, Soren Madsen was married to Christina Wolf, the daughter of Peter and Margaret (Petersen) Wolf, both natives of Schleswig, Germany. Peter Wolf was a farmer in his native land, and was also engaged in purchasing cattle. He came to America in 1883 and located in Audubon county, purchasing land west of Exira, living there until 1903, in which year he retired and moved to Exira. He prospered and increased his original holdings of ninety-one acres to one hundred and fifty acres. Peter Wolf and wife were the parents of eight children, of whom Christina, wife of Mr. Madsen, was the fourth born. The others were Welberg, Jens, Chris, Botilda, Margaret, Mary and Lena.

To Soren and Christina (Wolf) Madsen four children have been born, Marie, Anna, Nels and August. All of these children are unmarried, and all the living at home with their parents.

Mr. Madsen is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He is county supervisor of Audubon county and a member of the Exira town council. In politics he is an ardent and enthusiastic Democrat. For some time Mr. Madsen has been serving as president of the First National Bank of Exira, and has proved himself to be a man capable of performing the important and highly technical duties of a successful banker.

DANIEL FRANKLIN, M. D.

The world has little use for the misanthrope. The universal brotherhood of men is widely recognized, as is also the truth that he serves God best who serves his fellow man. There is no profession, business or vocation which calls for greater sacrifice or more devoted personal attention than the medical profession. The most successful physician is he who, through love of his fellow men, gives his time and earnest attention to the relief of human suffering. The successful physician is bound to make friends wherever he is known and he will retain the respect and esteem of all classes of people. Among the able young physicians of Audubon, this county, is Dr. Daniel Franklin, a young man who deserves great credit for his accomplishments.

Daniel Franklin, the youngest son of Harry and Bessie Franklin, was born in Russia on July 27, 1893. His primary studies were directed by a private tutor and when ten years of age he entered the gymnasium. After

four years of study there he came to America, landing in New York City on December 1, 1907. Spending only a few days in the cities of New York and in Chicago, he heeded the advice of Horace Greeley, and came west, locating at Omaha, Nebraska, where he entered the public schools, and, by the diligent study of English, qualified himself for admittance to Creighton Medical College. During his period of attendance at this college, in order to defray his college expenses, he worked as chemist for a creamery, and during the last year of his attendance at the medical school was a resident interne at the Omaha general hospital. He was graduated from the Creighton Medical College on April 30, 1914, and immediately after receiving his diploma came to this county, locating in Audubon on May 9th of that year, at once entering on the active practice of his profession. Although he is a young man, Doctor Franklin's practice is growing rapidly, and, by his courteous manners, his careful practice of the ethics of his profession and the high standard of his professional skill, he is fast gaining the confidence and respect of the people of Audubon county.

Doctor Franklin is a member of the Audubon County Medical Society, the Iowa State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, in all of which organizations he takes a deep interest. Fraternally, the doctor is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

Doctor Franklin is one of the rising young physicians of Audubon county, and his career forcibly illustrates what can be accomplished by the worthy sons of foreign countries who come to our land, and by persistent energy and determination win merited success.

CHRIS OLSEN.

This country takes great pride in the citizens of other lands who have come to these shores and who, with rare energy, industry and management have built up profitable and popular businesses in the various communities. The career of Chris Olsen, a well-known general merchant of Audubon, this county, is worthy of being heralded to the native-born sons of this land. The story of his life is more like a romance than a statement of real fact, since he has been able since coming to America, at the age of sixteen, to build up one of the most prosperous and flourishing enterprises in Audubon county. Mr. Olsen's success is not a matter of accident. He has given his labor ungrudgingly and deserves the large success which he has attained.

Chris Olsen, a well-known merchant of Audubon, Iowa, was born in

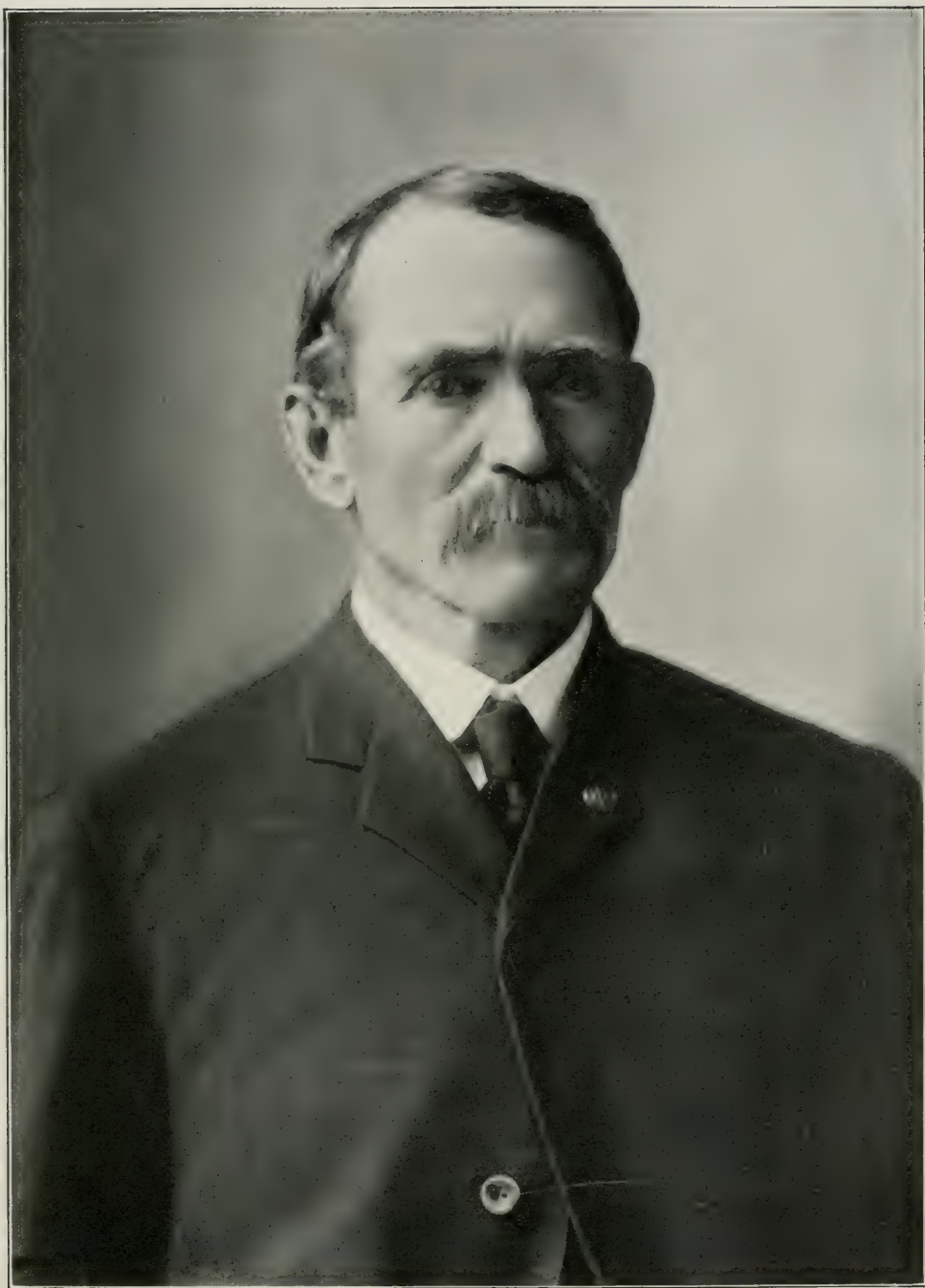
Denmark on October 31, 1872, the son of Peter P. and Anna (Christensen) Olsen, farmers in their native land. His father, who served in the Danish-Prussian War of 1864, died unexpectedly in 1895. The mother, who has had ten children, six of whom are still living, is still living in her native land. Chris Olsen is the only member of this family living in this country. He was educated in his native land and after leaving school clerked in a store for two and one-half years. Coming to America in 1888, he located at Harlan, in Shelby county, Iowa, and for two years worked out as a farm hand, attending school in the winter. Coming to Audubon county at the end of that period he worked as a farm hand in Cameron township for a short period and then went to Audubon, where he clerked in the general mercantile store of E. Bilhars & Sons for some years. About 1895 Mr. Olsen started in business in a small way for himself. He established a general mercantile store on a small scale, and has increased his stock from time to time as his patronage has grown, until he now has one of the best stores and perhaps as good a stock of general merchandise as is to be found anywhere in Audubon county. Mr. Olsen handles a complete line and today his trade is larger and more profitable than ever before.

In 1902 Chris Olsen was married to Marie Mathisen, daughter of Peter and Sophia Mathisen, and to this happy marriage have been born four children, Peter P., Anna Marie, George and Carl, all of whom are living at home.

Mr. Olsen affiliates with the Danish Lutheran church and is foremost in every worthy movement in this county. In his toil and struggle for success he has not overlooked the larger and greater purposes of life, but has given the attention of a loving father to his children and has always been and is regarded as a good citizen, keen and alert.

JACOB KUHN.

There is nothing which stimulates a man to deeds of worth and a life of uprightness and rectitude more than the recollection of the strength of character and examples of right living which have been shown by his forbears. In this respect Mr. Kuhn is fortunate beyond the majority of men in being descended from forbears who were men of strength and influence in their community, men who performed well their duties, whether in the peaceful pursuits of ordinary life or in positions of public trust. In the business affairs of Audubon, Iowa, Jacob Kuhn, a well-known retired miller, has always occupied a position of importance among those who have conserved and promoted the commercial and industrial prosperity of this community.



JACOB KUHN

Jacob Kuhn was born on August 31, 1844, on a farm near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the son of Archy and Mary (King) Kuhn. Archy Kuhn, who was born and died in Pennsylvania, was the son of Archibald Kuhn. The family dates back to the seventeenth century when a Mr. and Mrs. Kuhn were among a shipload of emigrants captured by the British and taken into Port Derry, Ireland. A son, Adam, was born in Derry. Later this vessel proceeded to New Amsterdam, but the Kuhns did not go. Adam became a traveling merchant in Europe. He was the great-great-grandfather of Jacob Kuhn, the subject of this sketch. Eventually he came to New Amsterdam, now New York, and married a Scottish woman named Eve. They went to New Jersey, where three children were born, Mansfield, Michael and Nicholas, the latter of whom was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. The family eventually moved to the Wyoming county settlement in Pennsylvania. At the close of the Revolutionary War, Michael Kuhn settled in Patten township, Allegheny county. Adam Kuhn later went down the Ohio river to Fishing creek and settled below Wheeling, where Eve, his wife, was killed by the Indians. Adam Kuhn remarried and lived to be a very old man. His son Michael, the great-grandfather of Jacob Kuhn, married Catherine McClarty, a daughter of Archibald McClarty, a native of Scotland, who settled on the Susquehanna river in the Wyoming settlement. Michael Kuhn and his family had several thrilling experiences and he fought in the Indian wars. He died in 1800, at the age of seventy-three years. Nicholas Kuhn had no children. Mansfield Kuhn settled in Kentucky. Michael Kuhn was born on April 5, 1747, and died on January 30, 1820. His wife, Catherine McClarty, was born March 3, 1743, and died July 12, 1823. They had eight children, Eva, Archibald, Adam, Samuel, John, Mary, David and Nancy. Archibald Kuhn, the grandfather of Jacob, was born on August 28, 1771, and died on December 13, 1831. He was married on May 16, 1799, to Martha Stotler, who was born on February 7, 1781, and who died on June 17, 1818. They were the parents of Michael, Jacob, Nancy, Archy, David, Catherine, John M. and William H. H. Archibald Kuhn was a member of the Pennsylvania Legislature, 1816-1820. His son, Archy Kuhn, the father of Jacob, was born on September 2, 1805, and died on December 11, 1889. He married Mary (Craig) King, who was born on August 18, 1812, and who died on March 28, 1904. Their children were as follow: Mrs. Nancy D. McCreedy, who was born on October 22, 1837; William, May 28, 1839, died on January 15, 1863, a soldier in the Civil War, serving in the One Hundred and Fifty-fifth Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer

Infantry, was mortally wounded at Fredericksburg on December 13, 1862, having been shot through the right lung; Mrs. Martha S. Stotler, March 6, 1841, died on March 28, 1897; Robert, December 12, 1842, died on September 28, 1843; Jacob, the subject of this sketch, was born on August 31, 1844. Jacob Kuhn was a soldier in the Civil War, a member of the Third Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery, Light Battery H, One Hundred and Fifty-second Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers. He was a prominent member of the Twentieth Iowa General Assembly in 1884. The sixth child of Archy and Mary (Craig) Kuhn was James King Kuhn, born on February 18, 1846, and died November 17, 1879. The other children were: Mrs. Eliza Ann Dildine, March 3, 1848; Mrs. Susan Alter, June 24, 1850; Mrs. Mary L. Spraul, June 2, 1852, and David B., June 20, 1855.

Jacob Kuhn was educated in the common schools of his native county in Pennsylvania. On February 13, 1864, he enlisted in Light Battery H, commonly called Rank's Battery, and connected with the Third Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery and the One Hundred and Fifty-second Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. He served one and one-half years and was discharged at Philadelphia on July 25, 1865. One section of Battery H was engaged in the battle of Gettysburg. While in the reserve artillery he took part in the battle of Monocacy, near Frederick City, Maryland. After the war Mr. Kuhn learned iron making in Pittsburgh and worked there until 1868. In March of that year he came West and located in Grove City, Cass county, Iowa, where, for the first year, he followed carpentry work. He was then married shortly, after which he moved to Anita, Cass county, where he resided for fifteen years, being engaged in carpentering during that time, with the exception of six years, during which time he was engaged in the milling business. In 1884, Mr. Kuhn located at Manning, in Carroll county, this state, and there engaged in the milling business for six years. He then lived in Des Moines eight years, and was there engaged in the milling business. In 1898 he came to this county, locating at Audubon, and there engaged in the milling business for sixteen years, or until October, 1913, when he sold out to his partner, A. S. Culver, having been engaged in the milling business for nearly thirty-six years, during which period he became very wealthy. Mr. Kuhn is the owner of a large ranch and town property near Billings, Yellow Stone county, Montana, and for twenty-five years has been a stockholder and director in the First National Bank at Manning.

On May 26, 1870, Jacob Kuhn was married to Minnie C. Taylor, who was born on September 20, 1851, the daughter of William and Martha Tay-

lor, natives of Pennsylvania and early settlers in Cass county, Iowa. To this happy union the following children have been born: Mrs. Eva M. Reynolds, born on July 5, 1871, died on August 31, 1893; Mrs. Ada M. Wever, June 16, 1881, who, on October 24, 1906, married George B. Wever, who was born on December 27, 1880, to which union three children have been born, George Kuhn, December 1, 1907; Alice L., August 18, 1910, and Ethel Mary, March 1, 1913; and Ethel L., September 13, 1884, married on June 11, 1914, Dr. Charles Burnside, who was born and reared in Audubon county, and who practises medicine at Los Angeles, to which union one child has been born, Harriett Elizabeth, born on October 13, 1914.

In politics Jacob Kuhn is an ardent Republican. In 1883 he was elected a member of the Iowa Legislature and served in the twentieth General Assembly. Fraternally, Mr. Kuhn is a member of Allison Post, Grand Army of the Republic. All of the members of the family attend the Presbyterian church.

THOMAS E. MASON.

Thomas E. Mason, who, by his own unaided efforts, has gradually worked his way up from a modest beginning to a position of influence in the community where he lives, is a well-known photographer of Audubon, this county. His life has been one of unceasing industry and perseverance, and the systematic and honorable methods he has followed have won for him the unbounded confidence of his fellow citizens in Audubon county, whose interests he has ever had at heart. As a photographer, Mr. Mason is one of the best in the county. He understands the technique of his profession, and in his dealings with the public has been especially fair and square. Although Mr. Mason has been in Audubon but a few years, yet within that time the merit of his work has had a telling effect upon his business.

Thomas E. Mason was born in Jones county, Iowa, on December 29, 1868, a son of William J. and Clemma (Finch) Mason, natives of Ohio, who came west when both were young and settled in Jones county, Iowa. They were married in Jones county, and lived there for three years, at the end of which time they moved to Cherokee county, Iowa, where they are still residing. William J. Mason is a well-known farmer of Cherokee county, having been a farmer all his life. He and his wife are the parents of five children: Thomas E., the immediate subject of this brief review; Jesse O., of Jefferson, Iowa; May, the wife of B. F. Mason, of Meridian, Iowa; Hattie,

the wife of Harry Phelan, of Cherokee, Iowa, and Bessie, who is the wife of Elmer Phelan, of Aurelia, Iowa.

Thomas E. Mason received his education in the common schools of Cherokee county, Iowa. After leaving school he took up farming and was engaged in that occupation for two years in Cherokee county. Subsequently he was engaged in the clothing business in Webster county, Iowa, for one year and then followed various pursuits for the next five years. At the end of that time he engaged in the business of commercial photography, and continued in that business at Jefferson, Iowa, until 1911, when he came to Audubon county and opened a photograph gallery in Audubon.

On March 7, 1894, Thomas E. Mason was married to Julia Swanson, the daughter of Swen Munson. Her parents were both natives of Sweden, but they never came to America, she having come alone to the United States, following, at the age of sixteen, three sisters who had come to this country, one of these sisters now being deceased. Mr. Mason and wife are the parents of three children, Earl, Blanche and Lester, all of whom are living at home.

Mr. Mason is a Republican in politics, but has not taken an active part in political matters. He and his wife are earnest and loyal members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which they take an active part and to which they are liberal contributors. During his residence in Audubon, Mr. Mason has built up a large circle of friends, who are ardent admirers of him and his work, and he is regarded as one of the most popular and public-spirited citizens of Audubon.

ARTHUR FARQUHAR.

This utilitarian age has been especially prolific of men of action, men of high resolves and noble purposes, who give character and stability to the communities honored by their citizenship, and whose influence and leadership are easily discernible in the various enterprises that have added so greatly to the reputation which Audubon county enjoys among her sister counties of this great commonwealth. Conspicuous among this class of men in Audubon county is Arthur Farquhar, former county superintendent of schools of Audubon county, and at present a well-known business man of Audubon, who is engaged in the life insurance business.

Arthur Farquhar was born on March 27, 1868, in Knox county, Ohio, a son of F. P. and Lucena L. (Bagly) Farquhar, both natives of Ohio. Lucena L. Bagly came to Iowa in 1837 with her parents, who located at West

Liberty, her father homesteading the land where the town of West Liberty now stands. Mr. Farquhar's father came to Iowa and settled at West Liberty, where he met and married Lucena Bagly. After living in Iowa for some years they returned to Ohio, where they lived until 1873, in which year they returned to West Liberty, where they remained until they came to Audubon county in 1886, and here they spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of eight children, namely: Ada, deceased; Ella, who is living in Audubon; Horace, who lives at Lincoln, Nebraska; George, who lives at Villisca, Iowa; Fred, who is a resident of Winterset, Iowa; May, living at Audubon; Arthur, the immediate subject of this review, and Mary, deceased. Three of these children were born in this state and four after the family's return to Ohio, and the youngest was born after the return to Iowa. F. P. Farquhar was born and raised a member of the Quaker church.

Arthur Farquhar received his early education in the common schools of Muscatine county, this state. He came with his parents to Audubon county in 1886 and taught school here for ten years. In 1899 he was elected county superintendent of schools and served in that capacity for seven years, or until 1907. After retiring from the office of county superintendent, Mr. Farquhar opened a life insurance agency, and is still a general agent in nine counties for the Register Life Insurance Company, of Davenport, Iowa. During the time he was engaged in teaching school, Mr. Farquhar occupied his summers in farming, and in 1891 bought a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Melville township, which he still owns.

On January 17, 1892, Arthur Farquhar was married to Nellie Leach, the daughter of James and Mary (Dean) Leach, natives of England, who came to this country and located in South Dakota, where they spent the rest of their lives. Mrs. Farquhar came to Audubon county in 1881, and made her home with her sister, Mrs. James Hunt, until the time of her marriage. To Mr. and Mrs. Farquhar two children have been born, Aubrey L., deceased, and Wynona L., who is living at home with her parents.

For many years, Arthur Farquhar has been prominent in the councils of the Republican party, and for the past eight years has served as chairman of the Republican central committee of Audubon county. He is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and belongs to the chapter and the commandery at Audubon. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias. Mr. and Mrs. Farquhar attend the services of the Presbyterian church, although neither is a member of any church.

Arthur Farquhar, by virtue of his long service as county superintendent of schools and by virtue of his present business as well as his activity as chair-

man of the central committee of the Republican party of Audubon county, is well known in this section of the state. He is an enterprising and progressive citizen and entitled to rank among the leading men of his county.

EVANS MARQUESSEN.

It is the progressive, wide-awake man of affairs who makes the real history of a community. His influence as a potential factor in the body politic is difficult to estimate. The example such men furnish of patient purpose and steadfast integrity strongly illustrate what is in the power of each to accomplish. There is always a full measure of satisfaction in adverting even in a casual way to their achievements in advancing the interests of their fellow men and in giving strength and solidity to the institutions which make so much for the prosperity of the community. Such a man is Evans Marquesen, a well-known merchant of Audubon, this county. As such it is proper that a review of his career be accorded a place among these biographical sketches of many other representative citizens, of the city and county where he has lived for so many years.

Evans Marquesen was born on September 3, 1884, in Audubon, Iowa, the son of Hans and Laura (Peterson) Marquesen, the former of whom was born in Denmark on November 12, 1855, the son of Jens Marquesen, born on November 12, 1830. Jens Marquesen came to America in 1862 and located in Washington Island, Wisconsin, where he engaged in farming. He came to Audubon county in 1876 and located in Sharon township, where he lived for years, but now resides in Elkhorn. Jens Marquesen and wife had three children, Hans, Mrs. Julia Gray, of St. Louis, and Laura, the wife of Jacob Esbeck, of Elkhorn. Hans Marquesen was employed in Gleason's store in Audubon for one year and then engaged in the lumber business for nine years, subsequently moving to Kimballton, where he engaged in the general mercantile business for twelve years. After a short time spent in Exira he then moved to a farm east of Exira, in Audubon township, and lived there for five years, after which, for four years, he engaged in the general mercantile business in Exira. In 1908 he removed to Elkhorn and engaged in the general mercantile business. To Hans and Laura (Peterson) Marquesen were born three sons and eight daughters, namely: Evans, the subject of this sketch; Edmond, a merchant at Avoca; Storm, who lives with his father; Pearl, who also is at home; Olga, who married Thomas Olsen,

and lives on a farm in Hamlin township; Myrtle, who married James Heinick, of Hamlin township; Gudrun, who married Harry Larson, near Elkhorn, and Hansie, Frances, Katherine and Gladys, who are at home.

Evans Marquesen was educated in the Audubon public schools and at Exira. He engaged with his father in the general mercantile business and was with him for four years. After his marriage, in 1906, he moved to a farm near Brayton, owned by his father-in-law, and for five years operated this farm. In 1914 Mr. Marquesen moved to Audubon, where he engaged in the mercantile business, in partnership with M. J. Frabicuis, and on the first of October, that year, purchased the entire business and now has the largest storeroom in the city, eighty-four by sixty feet and containing two floors, lighted by the company's own gas plant. Mr. Marquesen carries a general stock of merchandise and the stock is arranged under the departmental plan. Mr. Marquesen employs nine assistants, six women and three men, and carries a thirty-five thousand-dollar stock.

On January 1, 1906, Evans Marquesen was married to Christine Nelson, daughter of L. P. Nelson, of Oakfield township. L. P. Nelson is a native of Denmark, who came to America in 1869, and lived in Minnesota until 1877, in which year he came to Audubon county. Not long ago Mr. Nelson distributed ten farms among his ten children, this distribution being made at a Thanksgiving Day family reunion at his farm home near Lorah. The ten children made their own selection of the farms, at the suggestion of their father, each one selecting the place which he or she thought more nearly met with his or her ideal of a farm. The distribution was happily made. The ten children had planned an elaborate surprise for their father, which took the form of a reception to his daughter, Mrs. Harry Traum, and husband, but recently married. Mr. Nelson, upon coming to this country, first settled in La Crosse, Wisconsin. He came to Iowa by the first passenger train that came over the Rock Island railroad from Des Moines to Atlantic. Mr. Nelson settled eight miles north of Atlantic, where the surrounding country was all open prairie, with but one or two houses between his home and Atlantic, and by enduring all the discomforts of the early pioneer, by unceasing industry and by the highest integrity and the exercise of shrewd business judgment, accumulated one of the largest estates in this part of the state. Mr. Nelson's children are as follow: Gilbert P. Nelson, of Exira; John C. and Edward M. Nelson, of Brayton; A. A. Nelson and Mrs. Harry Traum, living north of Atlantic; J. A. Nelson, south of Atlantic; Mrs. Evans Marquesen; and the Misses Rose and Martha Nelson, all of Audubon, and L. A. Nelson, Jr., of Atlantic.

To Evans and Christine (Nelson) Marpuesen four children have been born, namely: LaRue, born on November 15, 1907; LaVonne, November 4, 1910; Thelma, June 22, 1912, and Dale, September 13, 1913.

Although a comparatively young man, Mr. Marquesen has made a splendid start in life. He has attended strictly to his own business and has never found time for activity in politics, although he is identified with the Democratic party. He and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church and are earnestly interested in all good works hereabout, being held in the highest esteem by all who know them.

ALFRED BROOKS, M. D.

The life of the physician and public-spirited man of affairs, whose name appears above, affords a striking example of well-defined purpose. Dr. Alfred Brooks is also possessed of a purpose to make his ability serve not only his own ends, but the ends of his fellow men as well. He has built up for himself a distinct position in the medical profession, a vocation which requires for its basis sound mentality and intellectual discipline of a high order.

Alfred L. Brooks was born on June 6, 1858, at Vinton, Iowa, the son of Lorenzo and Jane (Peace) Brooks, natives of New York state. Lorenzo Brooks was born in 1821 and died in 1901. He was a farmer by vocation, who came to Iowa in 1854 and settled in Benton county, where he spent the remainder of his life. His wife was born in 1823 and died in 1903. They had five children, two of whom are living, Dr. Alfred L., the subject of this sketch, and C. B., who lives in Iowa City.

Dr. Alfred L. Brooks is self-made and self-educated and deserves a great deal of credit for his achievements in the world. He received his elementary education in the common schools and subsequently, attended the Blairstown Academy. After this he taught school and worked on the farm during vacations, later taking up the study of medicine, and was graduated from Rush Medical College, at Chicago, with the class of 1883. Upon receiving his diploma, Doctor Brooks commenced to practice his profession at Gray, in Audubon county, and was there for five years, at the end of which time, in 1888, he moved to Audubon and has there built up an excellent practice. Doctor Brooks is a member of the Audubon County Medical Society, the Iowa State Medical Society and the American Medical Associa-



ALFRED L. BROOKS, M. D.

tion, and is active in all of these bodies. He is also a member of the International Association of Railway Surgeons, having been appointed some years ago as surgeon for the Northwestern Railroad.

Dr. Alfred L. Brooks was married in 1887 to May Langworth, who died in 1898, leaving one child, Lucile, who married Dr. W. E. Kimbell, of Des Moines, Iowa, to which union has been born one son, William Brooks, On June 20, 1901, Doctor Brooks married, secondly, Caldona Young, of Grand Junction, Iowa, to which union two children have been born, Emmett F. and Jane C.

Doctor Brooks is identified with the Republican party and has served as coroner of Audubon county for three terms, his first service in this capacity having begun in the eighties. In 1890, Doctor Brooks was elected to the twenty-fourth Iowa General Assembly and served during the session of 1891, filling places on many important committees and assisting materially in passing much important legislation. Fraternally, Doctor Brooks is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and is a member of the Knights Templar and the Mystic Shrine at Des Moines. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias. Doctor Brooks and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

JOHN KIRKWOOD DONALDSON, D. D. S.

Success in what are popularly termed the learned professions, is a legitimate result of merit and painstaking endeavor. In commercial life, one may come into possession of a lucrative business through inheritance or gift, but professional advancement is gained only by critical study and consecutive research, long continued. Proper intellectual discipline, thorough professional knowledge and the possession and utilization of those qualities and attributes essential to success have made Dr. John Kirkwood Donaldson one of the leading dentists of Audubon county. Though Doctor Donaldson is a comparatively young man, he is widely known for the high standard of his professional attainments and since establishing himself at Audubon has built up an extensive and lucrative practice in his profession.

John Kirkwood Donaldson was born on July 28, 1885, on a farm in Audubon township, Audubon county, Iowa, the son of Orlando Chester and Iantha (Rutan) Donaldson, natives of Johnson county, Iowa. Orlando

Chester Donaldson was born in 1845, the son of James and Jane Donaldson, natives of Pennsylvania, who were early settlers in Johnson county, this state. Iantha Rutan was born in Johnson county in 1841, the daughter of early settlers and pioneers in Johnson county, her mother having been a sister of the wife of Governor Kirkwood, Iowa's war governor. Mrs. Kirkwood is still living (1915), at Iowa City, at the age of ninety-seven, and is quite hearty. Orlando C. Donaldson and Iantha Rutan were married in Johnson county and came to Audubon county in 1878, settling in Audubon township. Orlando C. Donaldson served as county recorder of Audubon county from 1900 to 1905, during which period he resided in Audubon. From Audubon he moved to Shenandoah and there was engaged in the clothing business. One year later he engaged in the general mercantile business at Defiance, Iowa, and after being in business there for two years, removed to Exira township, this county, where he lived on a farm for one year, at the end of which time he moved to a farm near Manchester, where he is now living.

To Orlando Chester and Iantha (Rutan) Donaldson six children were born, two daughters and four sons, namely: Elverton Orlando, who lives at Defiance, Iowa, where he is owner of the gas plant; Wesley Samuel, a mechanic, who lives at Exira, where he is proprietor of the Ford garage; Mrs. Janette Burbridge, who lives at Palo Alto, California, and whose husband is an instructor in Leland Stanford, Jr., University; Dr. John Kirkwood, the subject of this sketch; James William, of Palo Alto, California, who is in the motorcycle business, and Clara Belle, who married Ray Zollinger, a ranchman of Montana.

John Kirkwood Donaldson was graduated from the Audubon high school, after which he attended the Northwestern University Dental School, graduating with the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery in 1910, immediately after which time he began the practice of his profession in Audubon and during the years in which he has been engaged in practice has made rapid progress.

Doctor Donaldson is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, having attained to the chapter in that order, and is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. While at Northwestern University, Doctor Donaldson was a member of the Delta Sigma Delta, the popular dental fraternity. He is identified with the Presbyterian church, and, politically, classes himself as an independent Republican, being independent in local politics, but supporting Republican principles and Republican candidates in national politics.

RUSSELL JAMES LOVELAND.

It is a well-attested maxim that the greatness of a community or state lies not in the machinery of government, nor even in its institutions; but rather in the sterling qualities of the individual citizen, in his capacity for high and unselfish effort and in his devotion to the public welfare. In these particulars Russell J. Loveland, one of the partners in the Audubon Canning Company, has conferred honor and dignity upon his locality by his persevering and close application to his business, and it is fitting that there should be recorded in this volume a brief resume of his career, with the object of noting his connection with the advancement of this flourishing and progressive section of the Hawkeye commonwealth. As one of the partners in the Audubon Canning Company, Mr. Loveland has built up a large and lucrative business, this being one of the large commercial enterprises in the city of Audubon, enjoying the liberal support of the people of Audubon county.

Russell James Loveland was born on January 10, 1875, in New York state, a son of James H. and Catherine (Dickson) Loveland, the former a native of New York, and the latter a native of Canada. They were married in New York state and are still living there. James H. Loveland has been a farmer all his life, and has been unusually prosperous and successful in his chosen vocation. He and his wife are the parents of eight children, Minnie A., Josephine M., Russell J., Adelber F., Howard R., Elizabeth E., Grace F. and Chester.

Russell James Loveland was educated in the public schools of his native state of New York, and after finishing the course in the common schools, entered the academy at Utica, New York, where he further pursued his educational training. After leaving school Mr. Loveland took up the canning business in Iowa, Indiana and Ohio, and has been engaged in this line for the past seventeen years, during the last five years of which time he has been located in Audubon, Iowa. The firm with which Mr. Loveland is connected is known as the Audubon Canning Company. It is a partnership, Mr. Loveland holding an equal interest in the company with Charles Van Garder.

On July 16, 1907, Russell James Loveland was married to Edith L. Denslow, the daughter of L. S. and Sarah (Benton) Denslow, both of whom are natives of Utica, New York, and are still residing in that city. Mrs. Loveland was born in Utica and was there married to Mr. Loveland. To this union three children have been born, Ford Dickson, Katherine Mabel and Russell James, Jr.

The canning factory in which Mr. Loveland is interested has a capacity

of one and one-fourth million cans annually. The output is sold largely in the west. The company cans all kinds of vegetables and fruit, and its brand is well known throughout the section of the country in which its sales have been made.

Mr. Loveland is not a member of any lodge, but has devoted his time rather to his business, to his home and to his family, being a man of decided domestic inclinations. Mr. and Mrs. Loveland and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Loveland is a Republican, but he is not active in politics and has never held office nor cared to do so.

WILLIAM LAYLAND.

The best history of a community or state is that which deals most with the lives and activities of its people, especially of those who by their own endeavors and indomitable energy have forged to the front and placed themselves in positions entitling them to the respect and emulation of progressive men. In this brief review will be found the record of one who has outstripped the less active plodders on the highway of life and who has achieved a success surpassed by few of his immediate contemporaries, his career in agricultural affairs having earned him a name which all men who know him delight to honor, on account of his upright life and his habits of thrift and industry.

William Layland, a well-known retired farmer of Audubon, who came to this county in 1880, was born on March 18, 1854, in Holmes county, Ohio, the son of William and Nancy (Crozier) Layland, natives of Ohio. William Layland died in Ohio in 1861 and his widow died in Iowa county, Iowa, about 1886. They were the parents of seven children, namely: Mrs. Sarah Givin, deceased; Mrs. Elizabeth Williams, of Ohio; Mrs. Margaret Gilmore, of Ohio; Mrs. Mary Tealond, of Ohio, who died in 1912; William, the subject of this sketch; Isaac, who died in this county, and Jacob, who lives two miles south of Audubon.

In 1869 the Layland family left Holmes county, Ohio, and settled in Iowa county, this state, where William Layland finished his schooling, he having been but fifteen years of age when he came to Iowa. After his marriage William Layland began farming in Iowa county and in 1880 came to Audubon county, settling in Hamilton township, where he bought sixty or seventy acres of wholly unimproved land, at nine dollars an acre. Mr. Lay-

land put up a small two-room house, twenty by fourteen feet, living in the barn for six weeks while building the house, all the work on which was done by himself. He lived on that place for five years and then rented the farm and returned to Iowa county, where he spent one year. Two years later he sold the farm for twenty-four dollars an acre and bought one hundred and sixty acres in Sharon township, for eighteen dollars an acre. One year later he rented this land for four years and then sold it. He then moved to the Kibby farm, on which he lived for one year, at the end of which time he purchased a farm of eighty acres in Leroy township, on which he lived for many years, making many changes and improvements on it. Later Mr. Layland purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Audubon township and lived on this latter farm for one year. He next bought one hundred and sixty acres in Hamlin township, improved the farm, rented it out and finally sold it. In the spring of 1896 Mr. Layland moved to Exira and in the fall of that year bought property in Audubon and has since resided in that city. He is the owner of two farms, totalling two hundred and thirty-six acres, including one hundred and sixty acres east of Audubon and nearly eighty acres near Casey, in Guthrie county. For many years Mr. Layland has been a breeder of heavy draft horses, and until recently was very active in that line, having been quite extensively engaged as a buyer and seller of horses.

William Layland was married on December 27, 1891, to Mary Elizabeth Riley, who was born in Newark, New Jersey, on May 16, 1856, the daughter of John and Catherine (McCann) Riley, natives of Ireland, who came to America, with their first child, about 1846. In 1863 John Riley settled on a farm at the end of the railroad in Iowa county, this state. He rented land for some years, but subsequently bought a farm and in old age retired to Victor, Iowa, where he died in 1896, his widow surviving him ten years, her death not occurring until 1906. They were the parents of the following children: Mary, who died in infancy; Rose, who died at the age of two; John, who died at the age of forty-five; Mrs. Catherine Gannon, of Victor, Iowa; Mary Elizabeth, who married Mr. Layland; James E., who lives in Sioux City, and Patrick, who lives in Victor, this state.

To William and Mary E. (Riley) Layland four children have been born, an infant, who died at birth, Charles, Cora and May. Charles, who was born on April 27, 1877, married Alice Moon, to which union four children have been born, as follow: Evelyn, born on October 10, 1902; William, November 8, 1903; Genevieve, June, 1908, and Margaret Fay, April 27, 1911. Cora, born on July 8, 1881, is the wife of Charles Elliot, of Creston, Iowa, and has one child, John Calvert. May, born on November 9, 1885, is the

wife of Frank Sampson, and has one child, Mary Louise, who was born on May 10, 1911.

William Layland for years has been identified with the fortunes of the Democratic party, but he has never been active in its councils and has never been a candidate for office. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and their children were reared in that faith, all adhering to the same, the family being highly respected throughout the county.

HIRAM MENDENHALL.

The career of Hiram Mendenhall has been a strenuous and varied one, entitling him to honorable mention among the representative citizens of his day and generation in the county with which his life is so closely identified. Although his life record is chiefly written and the period of his active career is nearing a close, Mr. Mendenhall, as an inventor, is known to countless thousands throughout this country, the story of his success reading more like a romance than a statement of facts. Mr. Mendenhall is one of the wealthiest men in this section of Iowa and he has done what few men are able to do, make an inventive turn of mind pay handsome royalties. His success may be attributed to his ability to discern what things were most needed and he has been possessed of the mechanical genius to turn out those devices. Throughout the many years of his active career he has applied himself diligently to his business interests and is one of the best-known and most highly respected citizens in this section of Iowa. Hiram Mendenhall owns a whole city block in the city of Audubon and two hundred acres of land in Douglas township and has spent fifteen thousand dollars in improving his two farms.

In 1886 Hiram Mendenhall patented and sold the Mendenhall hog trough, of which he sold thousands of dollars' worth. Later he patented the gravity lock and is one of the patentees of the Boss hog trough and the Daisy hog trough. He is the patentee of the Dandy pig taker and the owner of the Boss pig taker and has shipped his products to Central America and throughout Canada. Mr. Mendenhall was one of the patentees of the One-Minute washing-machine. There are at the present time twelve different companies paying him royalties on the manufacture of this machine. The first company which began manufacturing the One-Minute washing-machine paid Mr. Mendenhall over thirty-five thousand dollars in four years and this was only one-half of the royalty paid by that company. Mr. Mendenhall is secretary and

treasurer of the Iowa Washing-Machine Company, which controls the patents which pay Mr. Mendenhall his royalties. He has recently patented an ironing board which he expects soon to market. This last device he has promoted in company with his son-in-law, Albert Killinger. Mr. Mendenhall also has pending a patent for a folding workbench, which he expects to put on the market very soon.

Hiram Mendenhall was born in Randolph county, Indiana, on August 2, 1848, the son of Nathan and Mary (Beach) Mendenhall, natives, respectively, of Clinton county, Ohio, and of New York state, who were married in Ohio and from that state moved to Indiana, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Nathan Mendenhall was a farmer and miller and died on April 27, 1861, at the age of fifty-two. At the time of his death he was the owner of two hundred and forty acres of land in this county and two hundred acres in Dallas county, this state. Nathan Mendenhall's first wife was accidentally killed in 1858, whereupon he married again. By the first marriage he was the father of ten children and one by the second, the children of the first marriage being Thomas, Hannah, Amanda, Elizabeth, Benjamin, Nathan, John, Hiram, George and Timothy, of whom Thomas, Hannah, Amanda, George and Timothy are deceased. The child by his second marriage was Rebecca.

Hiram Mendenhall was educated in the common schools of Indiana and Iowa. He began working out by the month when he was thirteen years old and has been an industrious worker ever since. He took up farming early in life and has been active during the entire period of his life. He is an extensive breeder of Poland-China hogs, having been active in the hog business since he was eighteen years of age. Mr. Mendenhall came to Audubon county in 1877 and has been here since that time. The first spring Mr. Mendenhall spent in this county he had his corn in by the 11th of May. On that date six inches of snow fell and froze so hard that for three days Mr. Mendenhall could not take out a team.

On October 27, 1872, Hiram Mendenhall was married to Angeline Johnson, who was born in Indiana, her parents having been natives of Ohio, and to this union five children have been born, Rosa, Nora, Alda B., Hiram, George and Myrtle. Rosa married William Brockway, a carpenter and painter, of Audubon, and has four children, Lawrence, Mabel, Hiram G. and Kenneth. Nora married Thomas Swezey, a livery man of Audubon, and has six children, Leola, Dollie, Wayne, Wilma, Wyman and Thelma, the last three named being triplets. Alda B., who lives in Douglass township, married Maude Burkey and has two children, Margarette and Frederick. Hiram George married Alta Berger and has four children, Lester, Pearl, James and

Olivine. Myrtle married Albert Killinger and has three children, Albert M., Velma and Francis W.

Hiram Mendenhall is independent in politics. He believes more in the virtue of measures and men than he does in parties and party emblems. He served as trustee of Douglass township at one time. Mr. and Mrs. Mendenhall and children are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Mendenhall is not a member of any lodge.

ALEXANDER HOLT ROBERTS.

Fortunate indeed is the family which can trace its history back for more than three generations, and there are very few in this country that can do more than trace their genealogy back as far as four generations. The Roberts family history has been traced in an unbroken line to the eleventh century and investigation has shown its descendants by the thousands. They are found scattered over Europe and over many of the states in this country, and wherever they are found they rank among the best families of the community. It is not strange to record, therefore, that the representative of this family in Audubon county is one of the leading citizens of the county and ranks high as a member of the community, who is active in civic, religious and business affairs. A famous historian once wrote, "Show me a people that has no pride of ancestry, and I'll show you a non-progressive and backward race." This is quite true. The investigator and writer has found, as a result of years spent in historical and genealogical work, that the best and most progressive communities are those which take pride in keeping up the family records and keeping alive the family traditions. Culture, knowledge and pride of family and community go hand in hand and they are one and all inseparable.

Alexander Holt Roberts, president of the Audubon Commercial Club, and pharmacist of Audubon this county, was born on August 26, 1848, in Des Moines county, Iowa, the son of James Dorsey and Susan (McDonald) Roberts. He was born on a farm which was entered upon and settled by his grandfather, Reuben Roberts, as early as 1838. Mr. Roberts, therefore, enjoys the distinction of being a descendant of one of the oldest families in the state of Iowa. Reuben Roberts came from Elizabethtown, West Virginia, at a time when the greater part of the country that he traversed was a wilderness. The banks of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers were not then



ALEXANDER H. ROBERTS

lined with great cities and towns as now and Indians yet roamed the great forests and the plains. Wild animals were plentiful and settlers were few and far between. This brave pioneer was made of stern material, however, and his vision enabled him to see far into the future and determine that the vast stretches of unpeopled territory would in a generation or so swarm with millions of industrious inhabitants.

The Roberts family traces its origin back to the eleventh century in Wales, the family being of Welsh origin. The family properly begins with (I) Colwyn of Langno, in the eleventh century; (II) Meredith of Colwyn (meaning that Meredith was the son of Colwyn of Llyn); (III) Gwegan of Meredith; (IV) Einion of Gwegan; (V) Meredith of Einion; (VI) Howell of Meredith; (VII) Griffith of Howell; (VIII) Ievan; (IX) Rhys; (X) Ievan; (XI) Griffith; (XII) Morris; (XIII) Thomas; (XIV) Robert Thomas Morris of Cowyne; (XV) Richard Roberts—Margaret Evans, wife; (XVI) Richard Roberts, wife, Elizabeth; (XVII) Richard Roberts, wife, Margaret; (XVIII) Reuben Roberts, wife, Elizabeth Barton; (XIX) James Dorsey Roberts, wife, Susan McDonald; (XX) Alexander Holt Roberts, wife, Elizabeth Pritchard.

Colwyn, with whom this genealogy originates, was the Lord of Llyn, Wales. His coat-of-arms was: A, sable; a chevron, between three fleurs-de-lys, arg. The descent of Richard Roberts is as follows, according to a genealogy compiled from a pedigree chart by Lewis Down, deputy herald for Wales (by patent under seal of Clavencieux and Norrey, kings-at-arms), made in the year 1588, from a manuscript pedigree by John Roberts, brother of Richard Roberts, compiled about 1704 from manuscript in Harleion collections, British Museum, and from wills and deeds in Pennsylvania, and from official records in Wales.

Colwyn was the ancient lord of that portion of the promontory of Llyn in Carnarvonshire which included, among others, the parish of Llangin, Llanengan, Llabedrog and Llanarmon. These several parishes are on the Bay of Cardigan. Colwyn lived in the eleventh century and was ancestor to most of the families in that part of Llyn. In later years the lordship of a greater part of Llyn belonged to the Princes of North Wales and their descendants, among whom was Trahairn Goch, who held the title to a considerable portion thereof in the fourteenth century. Notwithstanding this fact, the immediate possessions of the descendants of Colwyn do not seem to have been disturbed. Down to 1700 there was scarcely a freehold in the parishes mentioned not held by the posterity of this Welsh princeling. Colwyn was the father of a son, Meredith, etc., down to Morris of Griffith, who held the lands

of Pencold, near Plasdlu, in the parish of Llanarmon, and other detached farms, about the year 1500 and later. Morris Griffith had issue as follows: Griffith Morris, John Morris, William Morris, Thomas, Hugh, Richard, David, Robert and Meredith Morris. Thomas Morris had (beside a son Richard) a son Robert, called Robert Thomas Morris of Cowyns, who was the father of Richard Roberts, who married Margaret, a daughter of Richard Evans, and was the father of John Roberts, born in 1648 of Richard and Ann Roberts. From the record of the Richard Davies Company (1682) we find that "John Roberts, one of the twenty-seven grantees, on the thirtieth and thirty-first of July, of Llagian parish, Carnarvon, gentleman," the grant comprising one hundred and fifty acres of land in Pennsylvania. It likewise appears that both his brother Richard and his sister Ann removed with John Roberts to Pennsylvania on September 16, 1683. John married Gainor Roberts, a daughter of Robert, son of Hugh and Elizabeth Williams, his wife. John Roberts died on June 6, 1724. A record of his will is in existence, dated July 3, 1722, and probated at Philadelphia, August 31, 1724. Richard Roberts, a brother of John Roberts of Pencoyd, removed from Pennsylvania to Maryland in about 1862. Bartholomew, the son of Richard, was born on August 24, 1701. Richard Roberts, whose wife was Margaret, was evidently a younger son in a large family of children. He was born in 1728 and enlisted in the First Regiment of Maryland troops in the Continental service from Anne Arundel county, April 23, 1778. He died in August of 1778. His issue was as follow: Thomas, Richard, John, Edward, Gainor (born 1766, died 1856), David, Abner, Jonathan, Elizabeth, Reuben, the last named the direct ancestor of A. H. Roberts, being born in 1772 and died on March 9, 1850.

Reuben Roberts married Elizabeth Barton, a daughter of John and Sophia Barton, in 1779. John Barton was a member of the Third Haven Meeting (Friends' Records of Talbot county, volume 5, page 311). Reuben and Elizabeth (Barton) Roberts had issue as follow: John; Jonathan, born in March, 1801, and died on September 3, 1849; Penelope, 1803, died on August 16, 1839; Gaius, an infant; Sophia, February 29, 1809, died on January 29, 1885; Jehu, 1811, died in 1884; Reuben P., 1813, died on December 10, 1854; Martin S.; Rebecca J., March 21, 1818, died on June 10, 1894; Josiah, October 24, 1820, died on August 28, 1870; James Dorsey, father of A. H. Roberts, July 25, 1823, died July 27, 1903; Alexander Holt, 1826, died November 15, 1847.

It is a matter of record that Reuben Roberts removed from Maryland to Virginia in 1802 and settled in Marshall county, near Grave creek. In

1838 he migrated to Iowa and settled on a farm twelve miles west of Burlington.

A recapitulation of the history of the Roberts family in America reveals the following authentic facts: Forty-two enlistments are recorded from among the members of the Roberts family in the American War of Independence, Continental army, from Virginia alone, and there were eighteen members of the family enlisted in the state of Maryland. Richard Roberts, the great grandfather of A. H. Roberts, was a Revolutionary soldier. His great-grandfather, Barton (on his mother's side), was also a Revolutionary soldier. The famous Bishop Roberts, of pioneer missionary fame, was a cousin of Reuben Roberts. Richard Roberts, from Anne Arundel county, Maryland, enlisted in the Continental army for a term of three years, in the First Maryland Regiment of Volunteers, and died during the same year of his enlistment. Additional genealogical facts, which will have a tendency to make clear some previous statements of this chronicle follow: Richard and Margaret Roberts were the parents of Reuben, who married Elizabeth, the daughter of John and Sophia Barton. Reuben was the tenth child of Richard and Margaret Roberts. He was born in 1772 and died on March 9, 1850, and was the father of James Dorsey Roberts, the father of Alexander Holt Roberts, with whom this review is directly concerned. The grandfather of A. H. Roberts, on the maternal side, Captain Barton, fought in the War of 1812.

Reuben Roberts, as recorded, in 1838 settled on a farm twelve miles west of Burlington, Iowa, where he died. James Dorsey Roberts, his son, was born on July 25, 1823, and died on July 27, 1903. His wife was Susan, a daughter of Alexander and Mary McDonald. She was born in August of 1826, and died on October 18, 1894. The children of James Dorsey and Susan (McDonald) Roberts are as follow: William Barton, of Texas; Alexander Holt, of Audubon, Iowa; Theodore Lang, of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa; Martha Malvina Weller, of Long Beach, California.

Alexander Holt Roberts was educated in the common schools of Henry county and Howes Academy at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. He was reared to young manhood on a farm and learned to till the soil as had his forbears for generations before him. He was graduated from the Bryant & Stratton Business College at Burlington, Iowa, in 1869, and for some time thereafter was employed in the office of the *Burlington Hawkeye*, and thereafter taught school for a time. For some time succeeding his work in Burlington, Mr. Roberts was engaged in the general merchandise business at New London, Iowa. In 1872 he embarked in the drug business at Mt. Pleasant,

Iowa, and in 1878 he came to this county, locating at Audubon at a time when the country was a prairie and the city was in the embryo stage of development. He purchased a lot in the newly-platted town and erected a building in two months' time. Within three months from his advent there he was doing business. He is still conducting his business in Audubon and has the oldest established business in the city of Audubon. During his long residence in the county, Mr. Roberts has been closely identified with the pioneer life of the city and county and the later improvement and upbuilding of the city.

On September 14, 1871, A. H. Roberts was united in marriage with Elizabeth Pritchard, of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, daughter of Thomas and Sarah Pritchard, who came from Philadelphia and settled in Henry county in 1834. She was born on a farm entered by her father. The patent given to Thomas Pritchard by President Tyler in 1841 is now in the possession of Mr. Roberts. To this marriage have been born two children, Ira Pearl, a practicing dentist of Sioux City, Iowa, and Ralph Pritchard, a practising dentist at Falls City, Nebraska, who is the father of two children, Thelma Millicent, aged fifteen years, and Ralph Pritchard, Jr., three years of age.

A. H. Roberts has always taken a great interest in church and Sunday school work and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is an active layman and has represented his church many times as a delegate to lay conferences, in 1900 having been a member of the general conference at Chicago, being widely known as one of the leaders in church and Sunday school work in the county. For the past thirty-six years he has been the efficient Sunday school superintendent in the Methodist school at Audubon. He is actively interested in civic affairs and is found in the forefront of all movements intended to advance the interests of his home city and county. For the past two years he has served as president of the Audubon Commercial Club, an organization which is "boosting" the city and pushing public improvements. In politics, he is a Republican. He is fraternally connected with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, having attained to the chapter and the commandery in that order, and has the distinction of being the commander of the local Knights Templar organization for sixteen years. His membership is with the Veritas Lodge No. 392, Amity Chapter No. 93 and Godfrey Commandery No. 44.

There are few more public-spirited citizens in Audubon county than Mr. Roberts. He was the first treasurer of the Audubon Agricultural Society, in which capacity he served for six years. He was a member of the first town council, also of the first city school board, in both of which posi-

tions he has given years of active service. When the Belgian Relief Association was organized for the purpose of extending relief to Belgian victims of the European war, Mr. Roberts was elected chairman of the association, and none worked harder than he to extend the cause of this association, there having been sent from this county, besides more than three hundred dollars in cash, one car of shelled corn, one car of flour and one car of canned corn, for the relief of the stricken Belgians.

There is a special satisfaction in offering in the foregoing life record justification for issuing such a compendium as the one in hand. It is not necessary to record that the career of men of the type of Alexander H. Roberts has been such as to gain wide reputation or the plaudits of men, but that such as he have been true to the trusts imposed in them and to such attributes of character as entitle them to the regard of all. Mr. Roberts has been a very useful citizen in his sphere of action, and has won the confidence and good will of all with whom he has come in contact.

ANSON S. CULVER.

The history of every man is an account of his life work, of his up-bringing, his youth, his early struggles to gain a livelihood, his successes and failures and his rise to affluence and prestige in the community, in whatever vocation he has selected as best fitted to accord with his temperament and abilities. The gentleman of whom this chronicle is written seems to have been adapted to the trade of miller, from boyhood having followed that vocation from choice, and has made a success of his calling. Anson S. Culver likewise enjoys the distinction of being the only Union naval veteran in Audubon county. Speaking of this important part of the life of Mr. Culver it can truly be stated that too much honor cannot be given the boys in blue who fought in the long and bloody struggle in the sixties. When they heard their country's call they forsook their ordinary vocations, enrolled under the Stars and Stripes, and with patriotic fervor and enthusiasm braved all the dangers of the battlefield in order that our beloved flag might continue to wave from the lakes to the gulf. The homage of a grateful people is theirs and we delight to accord them all the praise so justly due them. Among the few veterans left in Audubon county none is more deserving of a worthy place in this volume than A. S. Culver, only naval veteran of the county.

A. S. Culver and his son are the proprietors of the Audubon flour-mill,

which began operations in August of 1887 and has continued to grind uninterruptedly since that time. This mill was under the ownership and management of Kuhn & Culver until 1913, in which year the son of Mr. Culver, Vern Culver became his partner. The capacity of the mill is seventy-five barrels daily and the two principal brands are "A No. 1" and "Straight."

Anson S. Culver was born on October 3, 1841, in New York state, son of Lemuel and Patience Culver, natives of Vermont and Massachusetts, respectively, agriculturists in New York state, in which state their last days were spent. They were the parents of seven children, of whom A. S. Culver is the only one now living. Mr. Culver learned his trade of miller in New York when a boy and worked at his trade in St. Lawrence county, New York, until 1872. In the meantime the great Civil War came on and it was not to be expected that a young and vigorous man of his calibre would fail to listen to the call of his country for assistance in quelling the rebellion. Anson S. Culver enlisted in the Union navy in 1863 and was detailed for duty on the "Susquehanna." His vessel participated in the five days' battle and bombardment of Ft. Fisher and in many blockades on the Southern coast. He served until the close of the war.

Mr. Culver came west from New York in 1872, locating for a time at Anita, Iowa, and in August, of the same year, journeyed to Nebraska, where, at Ft. Calhoun, he followed his trade of miller for nine years. In 1881 he became the proprietor of a flour-mill at Anita and operated the same for six years. In 1887 he disposed of his interests there and came to this county, locating at Audubon, where he engaged in the milling business and where he has since resided, being accounted one of the county seat's foremost citizens.

In 1866 A. S. Culver was married to Celeste Rose, who departed this life in 1900. To this union three children were born, namely: Vern, partner in the milling business with his father, the father of six children, Lucille, Edith, Catharine, Helen, Mary and Alice; Genevieve, at home, her father's housekeeper, and Mrs. Emma Dickinson, of Saskatoon, Canada, the mother of one child, Ruth.

Mr. Culver is a Republican and is a member of the Presbyterian church. He is allied with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Grand Army post at Audubon. Mr. Culver is a man who by his own unaided efforts has worked from a modest beginning to a position of affluence in the community. His life has been one of unceasing industry and perseverance and the systematic and honorable methods which he has followed have won for him the confidence of his fellow citizens of Audubon, whose interests he has ever had at heart.

DAVID E. SOAR.

A review of the life of David E. Soar, a pioneer harness-maker of Audubon, Iowa, must of necessity be brief and general in its character. To enter fully into the interesting details of Mr. Soar's career, touching the earnest and persistent efforts of his earlier years and the successes of his later days, would far transcend the limits of this article. He has filled a large place in the ranks of the enterprising and public-spirited men of his day and generation and has been an important factor in the growth and development of Audubon county's industrial and commercial interests. He is a representative of that type of the world's workers which has furnished much of the bone and sinew of the country and added to the stability of the county and its institutions. And yet, in spite of the multitudinous activities of his life, he has never allowed the pursuit of wealth to warp his kindly nature. He has preserved his faculties and the warmth of his heart for the broadening and helpful influences of human life and is a genial friend, a gentleman whom it is a pleasure to meet.

David E. Soar was born in Nottingham, England on August 15, 1843, the son of Charles and Sarah (Taylor) Soar, the former of whom was a lace manufacturer in Nottingham. The family came to America in 1850 and settled in Kanesville, Iowa, now Council Bluffs, Charles Soar there engaging in the mercantile business, the rest of his life being spent there, his death occurring in 1906, he being then ninety-six years of age. Charles and Sarah (Taylor) Soar were the parents of thirteen children, two of whom are still living, Ezra, who lives at Council Bluffs, and David E., the subject of this sketch.

David E. Soar received his primary education at Council Bluffs. His mother died when he was thirteen years old and he came to this county and began doing farm work near Exira, meanwhile continuing to go to school until he was eighteen years of age. He learned the harness-maker's trade in 1862, and in 1864 started out as a journeyman harness-maker. In 1868 he opened a harness shop in Exira, the first shop of its kind in this county. In 1879 Mr. Soar opened a harness shop in Audubon, the first shop of the kind in the new county seat, and in 1881 moved to Audubon and has since that time made his home there. He kept the shop in Exira until 1883. In the summer of 1902 Mr. Soar erected in Audubon a large brick building and has it completely stocked with products made both by hand and by machinery. During late years his assistants have done the work and he looks after the retail department of the business. Mr. Soar owns a fine farm of one hun-

dred and twenty acres in Greeley township. He has seen Audubon county grow from a treeless prairie waste to a prosperous and thriving agricultural and industrial community.

On July 19, 1868, David E. Soar was married to Rebecca N. Harris, of Exira, who was born in 1848 and died on January 12, 1904. She was a native of Braxton county, West Virginia, the daughter of Adonijah Harris, a very early settler in Audubon county. To this union four children were born, Cecilia I., Charles H., Beulah O. and Edward W. Cecelia I. has been married twice, first to Walter Connrardy, by whom she had one daughter, Beulah. She is now the wife of L. A. Jensen and they have two daughters, Audrey and Lucille. Charles H., who is a bookkeeper, married May Murray and lives at Butte, Montana. Beulah O. is the wife of J. S. Small and resides at Hudson, South Dakota. Edward W. lives at Butte, Montana.

David E. Soar is an ardent Democrat, and served as township clerk at Exira and as a member of the city council at Audubon, the latter important service covering a period of nine years. Mr. Soar is a member of the Knights of Pythias and of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Atlantic and is well known throughout the length and breadth of Audubon county as an honored and respected citizen of this community.

ROBERT C. SPENCER.

It is generally acknowledged that journalism is one of the most important factors in twentieth century life, exerting as it does an influence in practically every department of society. This relation is just as actual and potent in the smaller cities and towns as in the large cities, and he who directs the policy of a newspaper or wields the pen which gives expression to that policy, exerts a control over local thought and action that is not equalled by any other profession. Among the newspaper men of Audubon county who have, by their progressive attitude toward local affairs, contributed in a definite measure to the welfare of the community, is the gentleman whose name appears above, who is successfully publishing the *Audubon Advocate*, in addition to his duties as postmaster of the city of Audubon. He is not only a successful editor and publisher, but is one of the most efficient and accommodating postmasters that the city has ever had.

Robert C. Spencer, son of William and Esther (Osborn) Spencer, was born in Jasper county, Iowa, on October 13, 1872. His father was a native



ROBERT C. SPENCER

of West Virginia and his mother was born in the old Buckeye state. William W. Spencer was born in 1842 and died in 1897. He was the son of William Spencer, who moved to Indiana from his birthplace and there resided a while, but later migrated to Jasper county, Iowa. He was married in Jasper county and came to Audubon county in the spring of 1881.

William Spencer was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil War and served for three years and three months in the Fiftieth Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He responded to President Lincoln's first call for troops to serve three months, and at the expiration of his first enlistment he signed the roster for three years longer. He fought under General Rosecrans and his record as a brave soldier was an enviable one, of which his sons and daughters have the right to be proud. William Spencer settled in Hamlin township when he came to Audubon county and bought a farm of two hundred and eighty acres, on which he spent the rest of his life. He was the father of five children, namely: Madison, a farmer residing north of Audubon city; Albert, proprietor of a farm near Audubon; Robert C., with whom this chronicle is directly concerned; Charles, a citizen of Audubon; Mrs. Arabelle Siemsen, wife of C. F. Siemsen, a resident of California. The mother of these children departed this life in 1899.

Robert C. Spencer received his early education in the district school of the neighborhood in which the family resided. After completing the courses afforded by the local school he studied for two years in the National Normal and Business College at Glidden, Iowa, and was graduated from this institution. He taught school in his home county for four years, or terms, and was elected to the office of county superintendent in 1897, entering upon the duties of that position on January 1, 1898, and serving for one term.

Upon the expiration of his term as county superintendent of schools, R. C. Spencer purchased a half interest in the *Audubon Advocate*, or rather, while he was still serving his term as county superintendent he formed a partnership with J. A. Graham in the ownership of the *Advocate*. Four months after this partnership became an actuality, Mr. Graham retired from the editorial management of the newspaper, and S. C. Curtis became a third owner in the enterprise, which has since been conducted under the name of R. C. Spencer & Co. The *Advocate* is one of the flourishing business institutions of Audubon county and an ably edited and influential newspaper, which reaches practically every home in the county.

Robert C. Spencer is a member and a ruling elder of the Presbyterian

church and contributes of his time and means to the support of this denomination. He is fraternally connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of Pythias. He was married on September 13, 1899, to Clara Hansen, of Audubon, a daughter of Ivor P. Hansen, to which union two children have been born, Arnold H., born in 1901, and Roland E., born in 1904.

Mr. Spencer is a Democrat in politics and stands high among the leaders of his party. For the past seventeen years he has taken a very active part in Democratic politics and has served as chairman of the county central committee. During the campaign and election of 1908 he was the candidate of his party for Congress and made a good race for the position. He served eight years as mayor of the city of Audubon and it can be said of him that he made a faithful and conscientious public official and in every way possible enhanced the reputation of the city. He was a strong advocate for public improvements during his term as mayor, and when he left the office the city was in excellent shape in every way. He received the appointment of postmaster of Audubon and took up the duties of that office on August 16, 1913. He is faithfully performing the duties of this office and is serving the public in a thorough and painstaking manner, which is a characteristic of his nature—to do everything he undertakes to the best of his ability, and to give the best service he possibly can give. Mr. Spencer is naturally gifted with those attributes of character which go far toward raising him in the esteem of his fellow citizens and enhancing his great personal popularity. He is genial, kind and obliging, ever ready to do a friend or acquaintance a favor, and is held in high regard throughout the county.

JAMES HUNT.

In the following paragraphs specific mention is made of one of the worthy citizens of this county, who has figured in the growth and development of the agricultural and financial interests of this favored locality, and whose interests have been identified with its progress, he for years having contributed, in his particular sphere of action, to the well-being of the community in which he resides and to the advancement of its normal and legitimate growth. Earnest purpose and tireless energy, combined with mature judgment and every-day common sense, have been among his most prominent characteristics and he has merited the respect and esteem which are accorded him by all who know him.

James Hunt was born in New York state on December 11, 1850, the son of Jonathan and Mary (Fletcher) Hunt, both natives of Lincolnshire, England, who came to the United States shortly after their marriage and located in New York, where they remained one year. They then came west, locating in Grant county, Wisconsin, where they lived for six years, after which they removed to Lafayette county, Wisconsin, where they spent the remainder of their lives, both dying of typhoid fever just one month apart, Jonathan Hunt's death occurring on August 26, 1862, his wife dying September 26, of the same year, their son, James, being then but twelve years of age. Jonathan Hunt was a farmer all his life and he and his wife were the parents of seven children, James, Mary, Robert, John, William, Albert and George, all of whom are living save the latter.

James Hunt received his early education in the schools of Lafayette county, Wisconsin, and after the death of his parents continued attending school until he was eighteen years of age, working in the summer seasons and doing chores during the winters for his board and room. Until he was twenty-one years of age he worked as a farm hand, receiving from twelve to twenty dollars a month for his labor. In 1871 Mr. Hunt came to Audubon county and purchased eighty acres of land in Melville township. When he first came to Iowa he had about eight hundred dollars, which he had managed to save from his labors while in Wisconsin. With this money he bought his first land in Audubon county, and has gradually added to his land holdings until he is now the owner of three hundred and eighty acres of fine land in this county, a part of which is in the corporation of Audubon. Besides this he owns one hundred and sixty acres of land in South Dakota.

On September 9, 1829, James Hunt was married to Elizabeth Leach, the daughter of James and Mary Leach, at that time residents of South Dakota. In later years James Leach and his wife came to Audubon county, where they remained one year, at the end of which time they returned to South Dakota, where James Leach died, his widow, still surviving him, making her home with her children. To James and Elizabeth (Leach) Hunt three children have been born, Nora and May, living at home, and one who died in infancy.

Besides general farming, Mr. Hunt has made a specialty of the breeding and raising of high-grade live stock, especially Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs, and has been very successful in this line of endeavor. He has bred, fed and shipped two carloads of cattle and hogs each year, and still owns a fine herd of fifty-two head of Shorthorn cattle, and sells from twenty-five to thirty calves yearly, which add no inconsiderable amount to his yearly

income from his farm. Mr. Hunt is still actively engaged in his agricultural work, at this time operating one hundred acres of land and personally looks after his live stock. Mr. Hunt decided to retire from active farm work at one time, but his health became impaired through lack of exercise, having always been a man of untiring energy and ceaseless activity, and upon his physician's advice he resumed his former active labors in the management of his farm, since which time his health has been perfect, and he is strong and sturdy today.

Mr. Hunt is a Republican and has always taken a keen interest in local public affairs. He has served his township as trustee and also as road supervisor, in both of which offices he discharged his duties to the entire satisfaction of the citizens of his township. He and his family are earnest and devoted members of the Presbyterian church, in whose welfare they are deeply interested and to the support of which they are liberal contributors.

FRED A. BUTHWEG.

The career of Fred A. Buthweg, a well-known clothing merchant of Audubon, this county, contains no exciting chapter of tragic events, but is replete with well-defined purposes which, carried to successful issue, have won for him an influential place in the business circles of Audubon, and high personal standing among his fellow citizens of Audubon county. His life has been one of unceasing industry and perseverance. The systematic and honorable methods which he has ever followed have resulted not only in winning the confidence of those with whom he has had business dealings, but also in building up a large and profitable business.

Fred A. Buthweg is a native of Germany, born in East Prussia on September 9, 1865, a son of Gottfried and Elizabeth (Wohlgemuth) Buthweg, who arrived in America on October 10, 1880, later settling on a farm in this county, where they spent the rest of their lives. They were the parents of but two children, both sons, of whom Fred A. is the elder, the other son, John, being now a prosperous and well-to-do farmer of Leroy township, this county.

Fred A. Buthweg was educated in the public schools of his native land and after coming to this country took a course in the high school at Audubon, brushing up his English. Subsequently he took a business course in the Omaha Commercial College at Omaha, Nebraska, and on February 25, 1884,

began his business life as a clerk, at which work he continued for three years. He then went to Omaha, Nebraska, where he lived for one and one-half years, during which period he was employed as a clerk in a grocery store, attending school at the same time. In 1890 he returned to Audubon and engaged in the grocery business for himself, continuing in that line until 1904, in which year he disposed of his business to Hans Albertson, and engaged in the clothing business, which line of business he still continues, making a specialty of men's furnishings. He has built up a large and lucrative business in the city of Audubon and the surrounding country, and his store is one of the most popular in the county-seat town.

On June 27, 1895, Fred A. Buthweg was married to Mary Musson, daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Boone) Musson, early settlers in Audubon county, they having come to the county in 1876, and to this union two children have been born, Harold and Florence, both of whom are living at home with their parents.

Mr. Buthweg has never held any public office and has never been especially interested in politics. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

AUGUST ZIERKE.

No land has given to this country better citizens or more successful farmers than Germany, and many of these have come to Audubon county. Among the sterling citizens of German birth in this county is August Zierke, a well-known farmer of Cameron township, and the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of land in that township. Mr. Zierke was born on February 7, 1850, in Germany, the son of Gottfried and Anna (Karl) Zierke, both of whom were born in that country. Gottfried Zierke was a farm hand in his native land and was so engaged all his life. He and his wife had eight children, only three of whom are living, and August is the only member of the family living in this county.

August Zierke received his education in Germany, and after leaving school worked out as a farm hand until he was twenty-six years old, when he decided to come to America. Upon arriving in this country he located near De Witt, Iowa, where he worked for one year for the Rock Island Railroad Company. He then removed to Poweshiek county, where he worked as a farm hand for four years, and then, in 1881, came to Audubon

county. At that time the settlement of certain sections of this county had scarcely begun, and Mr. Zierke found himself among pioneers. For several years he worked in Cameron township, and then located on eighty acres of land, which he had purchased for nine dollars an acre before he came to Audubon county. He broke the sod, reduced the soil to a fine state of cultivation, and has made many improvements upon the farm, the same costing in the neighborhood of six thousand dollars. Mr. Zierke raises annually about forty acres of corn, and small grain amounting to at least fifteen or twenty acres. The corn usually yields not less than forty bushels to the acre. All of the grain raised on the farm is fed to hogs and cattle.

In 1887, August Zierke was married to Bertha Neitzel, daughter of Henry and Matilda Neitzel, to which happy union eight children have been born, Albert, Clara, Henry, George, Elmer, Carl, Ora and Ella. Only one of these children is married, Clara, who married Roy Somers, and has one child, Harold. The remainder of the children live at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. August Zierke are members of the German Lutheran church, in which faith their children have been reared, and Mr. Zierke is a Republican.

August Zierke is not only one of the substantial farmers of Cameron township and one of its good citizens, but he is also popular in Cameron township. Though he has never held office, he is a man who is well informed on public questions, and is considered a wide reader. His primary interests, however, are his family and his farm, and to these he devotes most of his attention.

H. N. CHRISTENSEN.

One of the most extensive farmers of Cameron township, this county, if not the largest landowner in that section of the county, is H. N. Christensen, who, coming to America with little or no means at his disposal, set to work diligently as a farmer, and during a period of less than thirty years, which he has spent in this country, has become one of the most skillful farmers in Audubon county. Trained for the vocation of farming in his native land, he was well equipped to take up this occupation scientifically upon coming to America, and this accounts to some extent for his large success in farming.

H. N. Christensen was born on October 13, 1865, in Denmark, the thriving little kingdom which has given to this country, and especially to

Audubon county, so many of her enterprising and successful citizens. Mr. Christensen's parents, Peter and Kate Christensen, were farmers in Denmark and are still living in that country. The father served in the Danish-Prussian war of 1848 and has a splendid military record as a consequence of that service. He and his wife have five children, four of whom are living in this country.

H. N. Christensen received practically all of his education in Denmark and upon leaving school took up farming with his father and was engaged in this vocation until 1887, when he came to America. His education, however, has been supplemented by home study and wide reading, and he is regarded as one of the well-informed men of Cameron township today. Upon coming to America Mr. Christensen located in Cameron township, this county, and worked as a farm hand until 1899. Being frugal and economical in his habits of living, he naturally saved some money during this period of twelve years when he was working on various farms in Cameron township, and presently was able to make a start as a farmer on his own account. From the very beginning of his farming operations Mr. Christensen has prospered, and now owns sixteen hundred acres of land. He raises four hundred acres of corn and two hundred and fifty acres of small grain each year, besides annually feeding from two hundred and fifty to three hundred head of cattle and at least two hundred head of hogs. More than thirty thousand dollars has been invested in improvements on the Cameron township farm of Mr. Christensen. Of the total acreage, at least one hundred and sixty acres is in hay, and Mr. Christensen also keeps a considerable acreage in pasture, which he finds necessary on account of the great number of cattle he raises.

In 1897 H. N. Christensen was married to Mrs. Elizabeth Cameron, nee Grife, daughter of John Grife, a well-known and successful farmer of this section of Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Christensen have no children.

Mr. Christensen is a Republican and takes a keen interest in political matters, but he has never been a candidate for office, his large farming interests having kept him so busily engaged that he has had little time for politics. He is deeply interested in civic movements and worthy public enterprises, however, and his support may always be depended upon when private assistance is needed.

Mr. Christensen is a man of charitable and humane impulses, friendly and cordial in all of the relations of life. He is not only well known in Cameron township, but well liked by all the people of this section of the county. Mr. Christensen deserves great credit for the zeal, energy and deter-

mination with which he attacks the problems of farming and for the honorable, upright character of all his dealings with the public. He is a worthy citizen of this great county and state.

SIMEON C. CURTIS.

It is a well-known fact that public opinion expressed through the medium of the all-powerful press, rules this country. It was the insistent cry of the public that forced through the last two amendments to the Constitution of the United States. Public opinion, however, would be useless unless it had the opportunity to find expression, and there is no way in which public opinion can expend its full power and wield its tremendous influence except through the newspapers. For this reason it is not too much to say that the newspapers of the country are the real rulers; that they have more power in shaping the destinies of the nation than Congress itself. It was a very wise provision which was inserted in the Constitution by the fathers of this great republic that freedom of the press should be assured for all time to come. There are few towns in Iowa today that do not have a publication of some kind, and the newspaper directory gives several hundred publications of one kind or another in the state. Among the influential Democratic newspapers of the western part of the state is the *Audubon Advocate*, which stands as an excellent and influential medium for the expression of the voice of the people of this county.

Simeon C. Curtis, manager of the *Audubon Advocate*, was born in Galesburg, Illinois, on June 30, 1869, the son of S. R. and Bersheba (Heflin) Curtis, natives of Illinois, who removed from Illinois to Iowa in 1871 and located in the town of Avoca, Pottawattamie county. They purchased a farm near Avoca and resided thereon until 1899, in which year the family took up its residence in Audubon, S. R. Curtis having lost an arm through an accident, it being necessary for him to retire from active labor. S. R. Curtis died in Audubon in 1909. He was the father of nine children, four of whom are still living, Ned, of Audubon, Robert, Grace and Simeon C. The mother of these children lives in Audubon.

Simeon C. Curtis attended the district school and the Avoca high school. For some time after the ending of his school days he traveled in the West, and on his return home engaged in the printing business with A. P. Cramer, of Avoca, in the office of the *Avoca Herald*. He worked in that office for



SIMEON C. CURTIS

three years, and in 1888 came to this county, locating at Audubon, where he entered the employ of Frank D. Allen, publisher of the *Advocate*. In the fall of 1900, R. C. Spencer and Mr. Curtis purchased the *Advocate* and became the sole owners, with Mr. Spencer holding a two-thirds interest in the business.

On November 27, 1895, Simeon C. Curtis was married to Ada May Dennis, a daughter of Charles A. Dennis, to which union three children have been born: Mildred, deceased; Garland H., aged fourteen years, and Thelma, who is twelve years of age.

S. C. Curtis is politically allied with the Democratic party. He is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, being a member of the Audubon blue lodge and the chapter of the latter order. He is painstaking and thorough in all he undertakes and is generally found in the forefront of all matters which are intended to advance the best interests of his home community.

FRED H. COTTON.

The biographies of representative men of a county bring to light many hidden treasures of mind, character and courage, well calculated to arouse the pride of their families and the community. It is a source of regret that the people are not more familiar with the personal history of such men, in the ranks of whom may be found farmers, mechanics, teachers, lawyers, physicians, bankers, and men identified with other vocations and professions. Fred H. Cotton is distinctively one of the leading citizens of Exira township, and as such has made his influence felt among his fellow men, having earned a name for enterprise, integrity and honor as the proprietor of a grocery store at Exira, which has a large and liberal patronage from the people of Exira and vicinity.

Fred H. Cotton was born in Mitchell county, Iowa, on September 7, 1874, a son of Henry and Christina (Huyck) Cotton, natives of New York state. After his marriage, Henry Cotton located in Madison county, Wisconsin, where he took up a land warrant which his father had given to him. He broke the sod on this land and was very successful during the short time he remained there. He subsequently returned to the state of New York, but after remaining there a short time returned to Wisconsin, remaining there a few years, at the end of which time he came to Iowa, locating in

Mitchell county, where he conducted a grist mill for many years, later moving to Vinton, Iowa, where he took up the agency for the sale of the Fairbanks scales. Henry Cotton and wife were the parents of seven children, namely: Charles E., who lives at Cheyenne, Wyoming; Edwin D., a resident of Exira; Dell, who married William Quinn; Anna F., who lives at Atlantic, Iowa; Fred H., the subject of this sketch; Earl, deceased, and George M., a resident of Auburn, Nebraska.

Fred H. Cotton attended the public schools at Vinton, Iowa, and after leaving school took up farming, later clerking in a general store for a time. When the Spanish-American War broke out he enlisted for service, in April, 1898, in Company G, Forty-ninth Regiment Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered out at the close of the war. Shortly afterward he came to this county, locating at Exira, where he clerked for his brother, Edwin, until 1908, in which year he started in business for himself. He has increased his stock and business each year, and altogether has been very successful.

In May, 1907, Fred H. Cotton was married to Catherine Crane, the daughter of John Crane, and to this union one child has been born, Christina. Mrs. Cotton was born in Exira, this county. Her parents were natives of Ohio and Tennessee, respectively, who moved to Audubon county, Iowa, during pioneer times. Her father followed farming pursuits all his life and died in 1907. John Crane and wife were the parents of five children, Harry, Catherine, Dell and two who died in early childhood.

Mr. and Mrs. Cotton are members of the Congregational church, and Mr. Cotton is identified with the Masonic fraternity and with the Knights of Pythias. He is an ardent Democrat, but has never held office, the cares of his business having been too great to permit his active participation in political affairs.

MARTIN SMITH.

One of the well-known and highly respected farmers of this county, now living retired, is Martin Smith, who was born in County Galway, Ireland, on May 1, 1838, the son of Patrick and Anna (Lutney) Smith, the former of whom was a road contractor and followed this business all his life, dying in Ireland in 1844. His wife, who was the mother of five children, of whom Martin Smith is the only one now living, also died in 1844.

Martin Smith came to America with his sister when he was eleven years old and located in New York City, where he attended school, selling news-

papers to assist in paying his way. After leaving school he took up the carpenter trade and followed that until the Civil War broke out. On August 17, 1861, Mr. Smith enlisted in Company E, Ninth Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, and, serving in three different regiments, was in the service of the Union army continuously until the close of the war. He was engaged in the battles of South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and a number of skirmishes, and when mustered out of the service was attached to the army of General Burnside. Mr. Smith has an honorable military record and performed brilliant services in behalf of his adopted country during the period of civil strife. He was one of the guard during the execution at Washington of the conspirators connected with the assassination of President Lincoln.

Returning to New York City at the close of the Civil War, Mr. Smith resumed work at his trade and was thus engaged until 1867, in which year he moved to Aledo, Illinois, where he rented a farm, remaining there until 1880, when he came to Audubon county, locating in Lincoln township, where he purchased eighty acres of virgin land at six dollars and twenty-five cents an acre. After breaking the sod, Mr. Smith moved to Melville township, where he bought eighty acres of land at fourteen dollars an acre. He later increased his holding to one hundred and sixty acres and was actively engaged in farming until 1899, when he retired and moved to Audubon, having acquired a substantial competence for his declining years.

In 1860, Martin Smith was married to Julia McCarty, to which union two children were born, both of whom died early in life. After the death of Mrs. Julia (McCarty) Smith, Mr. Smith married Anna Welsch, who died a few years later, whereupon Mr. Smith married Mary Lowmer, daughter of John F. and Mary Lowmer, natives of Bavaria, Germany. No children were born either to the second or third marriage.

Martin Smith is a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic and has served as commander and delegate to state conventions several times. He has been officer of the guard in the local post for twenty years. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are members of the Catholic church, and Mr. Smith is identified with the Republican party.

Few men deserve more credit for their part in the growth and development of this country than Martin Smith, who, during the Civil War, gave four of the best years of his life to the service of his country, and who, since the end of that great war, by his labors has assisted in the development of this great agricultural region. Martin Smith is a good citizen, a credit to the community in which he has lived for so many years.

WILLIAM SHAW.

The following is a brief sketch of a man who, by close attention to business, has achieved marked success in the world's affairs, and has risen to an honorable position among the enterprising farmers of Audubon county. His record is a plain one, rendered remarkable by no strange or mysterious adventures, no wonderful and lucky accidents and no tragic situations, he being simply an estimable citizen, whose integrity and strong personality have forced him into an admirable notoriety, which his modesty never would have sought, and he commands the respect of his contemporaries, he having created a deep impression upon the life of the community in which he has lived for so many years.

William Shaw is one of the largest landowners in Audubon county, if not the largest. He owns over seventeen hundred acres of land, ten hundred and seventy-three acres of which are in Cameron township, two hundred and thirty-eight acres of which are in Lincoln township, and a hundred and sixty-six and five-tenths acres of which are in Leroy township. Mr. Shaw at present is farming four hundred and twenty-five acres, which comprises the home farm. He has a fine house of eighteen rooms, thoroughly modern, situated on a hill, surrounded by trees and shrubbery and flowers. All of the out-buildings are neat and well kept, the whole place bespeaking the prosperity and good taste of its owner.

Mr. Shaw feeds annually sixty head of cattle and at least one car-load of hogs every year. He raises one hundred and twenty acres of corn, which yields him fifty bushels to the acre. Mr. Shaw has six sets of buildings on his estate, and altogether carries on the most extensive operations of any farmer in Audubon county.

William Shaw was born in Scotland on March 1, 1850, the son of James and Elizabeth (Rennie) Shaw, farming people in that country, both of whom are now deceased. Robert, a brother of William Shaw, lives in Ohio. A sister, Mrs. Alice Schooler, lives in Canada. William Shaw was married in Scotland on June 26, 1878, to Margaret Taylor, who was born on September 17, 1853, in Ayrshire, made famous by Robert Burns, Scotland's national poet. She is a daughter of James and Agnes (Foote) Taylor, also farming people, and she had two sisters, Mrs. Agnes Wallace and Mrs. Isabelle Dikes, who also came to America, but both of whom are now deceased. In 1880 William Shaw and wife came to America, coming west with little delay. While Mrs. Shaw stopped for a time at her sister's home

in Illinois, Mr. Shaw came on to Davenport, Iowa, finally coming to Audubon county, where he purchased one hundred and thirty-five acres of raw prairie land in section 19 of Cameron township, at fifteen dollars an acre, and from that time he prospered. In 1890 he purchased more land and has continued buying land ever since, having been remarkably successful in his farming operations. His land has cost him fifteen, twenty, one hundred and forty and one hundred and seventy-five dollars an acre, the latter price having been paid when he purchased land in 1915.

To William and Margaret (Taylor) Shaw eleven children have been born, all of whom are living save one, as follow: Agnes Fulton, born on June 21, 1879, married Ora Mischler, of Cameron township; James Taylor, February 22, 1881, married Nettie Wenig, of Cameron township; Elizabeth Rennie, February 22, 1881; William Wallace, May 5, 1883, died on April 17, 1889; John Slimen, November 20, 1884, residing in Gray, married Mabel Welsh; Margaret, November 5, 1887, wife of Charles King, of Cameron township; Isabelle, May 5, 1889, wife of William Summerville, of Carroll county; Jessie, July 10, 1891; Archena, May 24, 1894; Pearl, February 25, 1897, and Effie, August 20, 1899.

It is a noteworthy fact that William Shaw purchased the first groceries and merchandise ever sold in the town of Gray. He also purchased the first pair of trousers sold in that town. Mr. Shaw is a Republican, and served as trustee of Cameron township for six years, giving a most efficient and satisfactory administration. He also has been school director for twelve years, his service in this connection having done much for the betterment of the schools. Though Mr. and Mrs. Shaw and family are members of the Presbyterian church, they all attend the Methodist Episcopal church.

WILLIAM NORTHUP.

Among the worthy citizens of Audubon, whose residence in this county has contributed in no small degree to the prestige of the vicinity, is William Northup, ex-sheriff and well-known live-stock dealer, familiarly known as "Dick" Northup. While laboring for his individual advancement, Mr. Northup has at the same time contributed liberally of his time, energy and ability to worthy public movements, and has been honored by the people of Audubon county with election to one of the most important offices in the gift of the people of this county. Aside from his political service, Mr.

Northup has been successful in a business way, and is known as one of the substantial citizens of Audubon county. He is enterprising, progressive and broad-minded, possessed of pleasing and agreeable manners, and is, from many standpoints, a man who must be pointed out as one of the leading citizens of this section of the state.

William Northup was born on August 18, 1859, in Iowa county, Iowa, the son of Nathan and Harriet Northup, who are referred to elsewhere in this volume. When eight years old, William Northup moved with the family to Nebraska, where he lived for eight years. The family then returned to Iowa county, where they lived until 1880, in which year they came to Audubon county, and here William Northup began life for himself. He assisted his father on the farm, breaking the raw prairie land, and also worked for the neighbors during the first season after coming to this county, and in 1881 rented land in Leroy township, after which he returned to Iowa county, where he worked in a brick plant for one year, but after his marriage, in the fall of 1882, came back to Audubon county and rented a farm for three years. At the end of that time he purchased eighty acres of improved land in Cameron township, upon which he lived for two years, at the end of which time he sold the farm and purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Douglas township, on which he lived for thirteen years. In 1901 Mr. Northup sold this latter farm and purchased two hundred and forty acres in Cameron township, where he lived for two years, or until his election as sheriff in 1903. He took his office in 1904 and served two terms and an extra year, making in all five years. Since his retirement from office in 1909 he has been engaged in the grain and live-stock business and has been very successful.

On July 15, 1882, William Northup was married to Myra Smith, of Johnson county, Iowa, who was born on October 14, 1861, the daughter of Edwin and Sabina (Bird) Smith, natives of Indiana and of England, respectively. To this union three children have been born, namely: Herbert, who married Florence Buckner and is a farmer in Cameron township; Harold, a farmer of Cameron township, who married Kathleen Dimmick, and Ruth, who is at home. To Herbert and Florence (Buckner) Northup three children have been born, Winifred, Frank and Richard.

William Northup is a Democrat and has been one of the leaders of his party in Audubon county for many years. Besides his service of five years as sheriff, he has served as trustee of Douglas township and on the city council of Audubon. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, in the affairs of

both of which orders he takes a warm interest. There are few, if any, men in the county who enjoy a wider personal popularity than former Sheriff Northup, who is held in the highest regard by his many friends.

HENRY SUNBERG.

In the United States there are more persons engaged in farming than in any other business or vocation. The United States census reports for 1910 show that there are about one hundred and fifteen thousand lawyers, one hundred and fifty thousand physicians and surgeons, one hundred and eighteen thousand clergymen, something over sixty thousand engineers and some six hundred thousand school teachers, but there are twelve million men living in the United States engaged in farming. It therefore appears that farming is one of the most important vocations known to mankind. Farmers, industrial workers and commercial and transportation workers constitute ninety-five per cent. of the population, and control an even greater percentage of the wealth of the country. One of the enterprising and successful farmers of this county, now living retired, who has succeeded in his chosen vocation as a consequence of his own courage, persistency and good management, is Henry Sunberg. Mr. Sunberg believes in lending what aid he can to his neighbors and the general public, and is regarded as one of Audubon county's best citizens.

Henry Sunberg was born in Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany, on May 12, 1844, the son of Christ and Paulina Sunberg. With his wife and first-born son, in 1871, he crossed the Atlantic on the voyage to America, locating, shortly after his arrival, in Johnson county, Iowa. Mr. Sunberg came to this country on borrowed money, and for five years after arriving here worked for one dollar a day as a farm laborer. He then rented land for ten years in Johnson county, and in 1886 came to Audubon county and purchased eighty acres of splendid partly-improved land in Melville township, for which he paid twenty-five dollars an acre. Mr. Sunberg paid half of the purchase price of the farm in cash and gave his note and mortgages for the balance. His affairs prospered, and five years later he purchased one hundred and sixty acres additional, wholly unimproved, for which he paid twenty dollars an acre, later buying forty acres in Leroy township, at eighty-seven and one-half dollars an acre, making in all two hundred and eighty acres. He resided in Melville township until 1906, and then moved to his

forty-acre farm in Leroy township, where he lived until March, 1914, at which time he retired from the farm and moved to Audubon, where he has since resided.

On May 14, 1868, Henry Sunberg was married to Hannah Ahrand, who was born in Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany, on September 16, 1839, the daughter of Christ Ahrand, and to this happy union seven children have been born: Fred, a farmer; Charles, sheriff of Audubon county; Frank, a farmer; Mrs. Minnie Owen; John a farmer; Henry, also a farmer, and Mrs. Anna Lefler, the wife of a farmer of this county. Henry Sunberg has thirteen grandchildren, Fred Sunberg having four children, May, Carl, Milton and an infant; Mrs. Minnie Owen, three children, Henry, Grace and Helen; John, two children; Henry, two children, Edward and Gertrude; Mrs. Anna Lefler, two children, Gladys and Dessie.

Henry Sunberg is a Democrat, and at one time served as trustee of his township. Mr. and Mrs. Sunberg and family are all members of the Lutheran church, and are active in the affairs of that denomination, being interested in all good works throughout the community in which they reside.

EUGENE C. WILSON.

Eugene C. Wilson, a retired farmer living at Exira, Iowa, who owns a farm of two hundred and eighty-five acres in Exira township, besides four hundred acres in Minnesota. Mr. Wilson has had a varied career. He is a skillful carpenter and for many years worked at that trade. While living in California he was the proprietor of a bee ranch. He was also engaged while a resident of that state in mounting birds, and besides a choice collection which he sold to a college museum in Turkey, Mr. Wilson has an extensive private collection. For many years he was one of the foremost farmers of Audubon county, raising thousands of head of hogs and buying, feeding and shipping many carloads of cattle. Mr. Wilson has lived retired since 1904, in which year he moved to Exira, built a fine home at a cost of ten thousand dollars, a house which consists of ten rooms and is strictly modern in every respect, and there he has been living for the past eleven years.

Eugene C. Wilson, a retired farmer of Exira township, now living in Exira, was born on January 21, 1860, in Geneseo, Illinois, the son of Isaac N. and Ann Eliza (Joslin) Wilson, both natives of New York. When he



EUGENE C. WILSON AND SON.

was thirty years old, Isaac N. Wilson moved to Illinois and purchased a farm, on which he resided for a few years, after which he moved to Geneseo, in that state, where he engaged in the grain business, and was thus actively engaged for thirty-six years, at the end of which time he retired, his death occurring in Geneseo in 1911. Isaac N. Wilson was born on May 7, 1824, and was therefore eighty-seven years old at the time of his death. During all of his residence in Geneseo he was prominent in the commercial and financial affairs of the city, and for forty years was connected with the Geneseo First National Bank. He was also a member of the board of supervisors in Illinois. Isaac N. Wilson became a resident of Illinois in 1853. The following year he was married to Ann Eliza Joslin, to which union five children were born, Ida, Eugene, Frank, Edward and Emma. Ida died at the age of eighteen. Eugene is the subject of this sketch. Frank died in infancy. Edward married Elma M. Henney, and Emma married F. L. Smith.

Edward Wilson was associated with his brother, Eugene, in farming from 1886, when they came to Audubon county, until 1893, during which time they were engaged in farming two hundred and forty-seven acres of land. They were accustomed to feed four hundred head of hogs, and at least a hundred and twenty-five head of cattle annually. Eugene Wilson bought out his brother Edward in 1893 and continued the operation of the farm alone until his retirement in 1904.

Eugene C. Wilson attended school at Geneseo, Illinois, and for some time was a student in the high school at that place. He then entered the Davenport Business College, from which he was graduated, and after completing the business-college course returned to his home in Illinois and there took up farming and carpentry work. After having been engaged in this for one year he went to California and there operated a bee ranch for two years. Selling out his California property, he returned to Illinois, and in 1886 came to Iowa, locating in this county. While in California Mr. Wilson trapped birds and mounted them. One of his collections was sold in Turkey, and he brought back to Illinois about six hundred specimens of birds. After his return to Illinois and until his removal to this county, he was engaged in carpenter work. He also engaged in raising fast horses for a long time, and for thirty years was an advocate of good roads, doing much to improve the highways at his own expense. Mr. Wilson is also a musician and was a member of the band at Exira for a great many years.

Eugene C. Wilson was married in 1896 to Jennie M. Bliss, the daughter

ter of George and Jane Bliss, to which union one child, Irving N., was born. Mrs. Wilson died in 1904, and Mr. Wilson married, secondly, Belle B. Lancelot, daughter of W. J. and Phoebe (Crow) Lancelot. Two children, both daughters, have been born to this second union, Marjorie and Marguerite, twins, both of whom are living at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson are members of the Congregational church. Mr. Wilson served as township trustee for three years having been elected on the Republican ticket.

JOHN ADAMS MUSSON.

A review of the life of the honored subject of this memoir must of necessity be brief and general in its character, for it is impossible in this instance to enter fully into the details of his life, touching many of his earlier struggles, and only a general perspective of a life which has closed on earth can be had. Mr. Musson still lives in the memories of many friends and neighbors in Audubon and was known by all as a kindly and honest man whose best thoughts and efforts were for the happiness and well-being of his family.

John Adams Musson, a native of the state of Iowa, was born on October 5, 1868, at Earlham, Madison county, and died at his home in Audubon, Audubon county, on July 4, 1912. His father was Thomas Musson, and the two were associated together in their grain business in Audubon, the father being well remembered by many of the older citizens of the town. John A. Musson came to Audubon county when a boy of ten years old (in 1878), being brought here by his parents. He remained here until 1890, when he went to Salem, South Dakota, where he remained for five years, at the end of which time he returned to Audubon, and it was then father and son became associated in the same business.

While in Salem, South Dakota, on October 12, 1894, John A. Musson was united in marriage to Bertha M. Schneider, a daughter of Joseph and Frances (Ringer) Schneider.

Mr. Musson and his father were not long associated together, for the father soon died with heart trouble, and the son then continued the business alone for the balance of his life.

John Adams Musson was a type of perfect manhood, and, while he was fond of life and the pleasures which it afforded, he also looked well to the more serious issues, and on February 4, 1906, united with the Pres-

byterian church, of which he remained a faithful member until his life here on earth was closed. He was also a man in whom the fraternal spirit was strong, and was an enthusiastic member of the ancient order of Freemasonry, having attained to the chapter and the commandery in that order, and was a member of the Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, Za-Ga-Zig Temple, at Des Moines, this state. He was also a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America, and both he and Mrs. Musson were members of the Order of the Eastern Star. Beside his widow, Mr. Musson left three children, Reuben J., a graduate of Audubon high school and at present a student at the Iowa State College at Ames, and Dorothy and Thomas F., both attending high school in Audubon.

WILLIAM OWEN.

Agriculture has been an honored vocation from the earliest ages, and as a usual thing men of honorable and humane impulses, as well as of energy and thrift, have been patrons of husbandry. The free out-of-door life of the farm has a decided tendency to foster and develop that independence of mind and self-reliance which characterizes true manhood. No truer blessing can befall a boy than to be reared in close touch with nature in the healthful life and inspiring labor of the fields. It has always been the fruitful soil from which have sprung the moral bone and sinew of the country, and the majority of the nation's great warriors, renowned statesmen and distinguished men of letters were born on the farm and were indebted largely to its influence for the distinction which they have attained.

William Owen, one of the well-known farmers of this county, who is now living retired, was born in Lincolnshire, England, on May 1, 1841, the son of Richard and Isabelle (Spencer) Owen, who emigrated to America about 1869, coming to Iowa and settling on a farm in Melville township, Audubon county. They remained there for one year, at the end of which time they removed to a farm on the Botna, where they remained two years, subsequently moving to a farm at Lucketts Grove, where they remained for one year. They then moved to a farm in Viola township, later purchasing land in section 26, near Williams, in Leroy township. Richard Owen and wife improved this latter farm and in 1889 sold it, after which they made a visit to England. Upon their return to this county they located at Exira, where Richard Owen died at the home of his son, William, in August, 1895,

his widow surviving for three years, her death not occurring until 1898. Richard and Isabelle (Spencer) Owen were the parents of the following children: William, the subject of this sketch; George, deceased; Thomas, who lives in Oklahoma, and Mary, the widow of William Wildey, who now lives in the West.

William Owen was educated in the English schools. He married in 1866, and in October of that year he and his wife set sail for America, landing in New York City, whence they went to Cleveland, where they remained until 1870, in April of which year they came to Audubon county, a few months later purchasing land in section 26, Leroy township. This farm, consisting of eighty acres, was purchased at five dollars and fifty cents an acre. William Owen erected a small house on this farm, and for a time he and his wife experienced some pretty hard times. Atlantic was the nearest market, and to Ft. Dodge there were nothing but trails. Jefferson was another market, but it required three days to make the trip and blizzards sometimes intervened. Mr. Owen prospered, however, and presently added eighty acres to his first eighty-acre farm, gradually increasing his holdings until now he owns two hundred and forty acres. Besides this, he has given to his four elder sons forty acres each, together with teams, wagons, harness and feed to give them a start. Mr. Owen's eldest son, Robert, owns two hundred and forty acres adjoining the old home place. The second son, William S., owns a half section in Viola township, which is worth two hundred dollars an acre. The third son, Richard, owns one hundred and eighty acres in Hamlin township and two hundred and eleven acres in Exira township. The fourth son, George, now deceased, owned eighty acres.

On February 3, 1866, William Owen was married to Mary Ann Clifton, who was born in Lincolnshire, England, on April 18, 1844, the daughter of George and Jane (Spencer) Clifton, to which union were born the following children: Robert J. F., William S., Richard, George Edward, Charles Clark, Worthy Earl, Carrie C., Lillie, Nancy A., Ethel M., and Jane Elizabeth and George Washington, twins, the two latter of whom are deceased. Robert J. F. Owen married Frances Story and they have two children, Lela and Floyd. William S. married Minnie Sunberg and they have three children, Henry, Grace and Helen. Richard married Myrtle Frye and they have two children, Leland and Ellawene. George Edward (now deceased) married Josephine Wilson, to which union two children were born, Lucille and Bernard. Charles Clark, who lives on the home farm, married Lula Carter and they have two children, Virgil and Donald. Worthy Earl lives on the home place with Charles. Mrs. Carrie C. Frye lives in Melville

township and has three children, Marie, Harry and Lillie. Mrs. Lillie Higgins lives in Hamlin. Mrs. Nancy A. Sunberg lives in Hamlin township and has two children, Leverne and Merle. Mrs. Ethel M. Smith has one child, Mary Ann.

William Owen is a Republican and has held several township offices with credit. The Owen family are all members of the Presbyterian church and are active in the work of the church and the Sunday school, all being held in high esteem throughout the section of the county in which they reside.

JORGEN F. SCHROEDER.

Jorgen F. Schroeder, who owns a splendid farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Lincoln township, this county, was born in Schleswig, Germany, in 1844, the son of Peter and Anna (Tames) Schroeder, natives of the same place. Peter Schroeder was a farmer and laborer and lived in his native land all his life. He and his wife were the parents of three children, Margaret and Anna, who are still living in Germany, and Jorgen F., the subject of this sketch.

After leaving school, Jorgen F. Schroeder began working as a farm hand in his native land and when he was twenty-six years old joined the army, in which he served for two years. A few months after the end of the Franco-Prussian War, he came to America on the ship "Harmonia," locating in Davenport, Iowa, shortly after landing. From Davenport he moved to Muscatine county, this state, where he worked as a farm hand for three years, at the end of which time he rented one hundred and twenty acres and farmed for himself until 1878, in which year he came to Audubon county, locating in Audubon, where he worked with his teams, hauling sand which was used in the construction of the new court house. After two years' residence in Audubon he removed to Gray, Iowa, where he operated a tavern for five years, at the end of which period he moved to the farm where he now lives, first purchasing eighty acres. This original holding he gradually increased until he now owns three hundred and twenty acres, which he devotes to general farming, at the same time feeding about seventy-five head of hogs annually.

In 1876 Jorgen F. Schroeder was married to Mary Schluntz, daughter of Gottlieb and Anna (Jungjohan) Schluntz. Of the eleven children born to this union, only nine are living, Peter, Cleveland, Bismark, Anna, Ricka,

Doris, Rosa, Margaret and Elsie. Of these children, Peter married Mae Stribe; Anna married Charles Ross and has five children; Ricka married Peter Ohrt; Doris married Fred Sievers; Rosa married Jack Moore, and has one child, Jack, Jr. Mrs. Schroeder was born in Holstein, Germany, her parents also having been natives of that place. She came to America when ten years old with her parents, who settled on a farm near Davenport, Iowa.

A Democrat in politics, Mr. Schroeder served as township assessor for eight years. He also has served as member of the school board and as school director, and otherwise has been prominent in the educational life of his community. The Schroeder family are all members of the German Lutheran church.

Jorgen F. Schroeder has been an industrious farmer and an enterprising and successful citizen of this great state. He is a worthy representative of the many German families of this section, who have carved out comfortable homes and become the possessors of much wealth. No word of suspicion has ever been raised regarding the high character and sterling integrity of Jorgen F. Schroeder, and he enjoys the esteem and confidence of all his neighbors.

FRANK M. RICE.

Frank M. Rice, clerk of the district court of Audubon county, Iowa, was born on April 26, 1854, on a farm in Rock Island county, Illinois, son of Warren C. and Rachel (Marshall) Rice, natives of Ohio. Frank M. Rice came to Audubon county, Iowa, in September, 1879, and his parents came here to make their permanent home in 1883. They settled on a farm in Greeley township, where Warren C. Rice died in 1905, his wife having departed this life in 1888, five years after coming to the new home in the West. Warren C. Rice and wife were the parents of three children, Mrs. Emma Moore of Omaha; Edward C., a resident of Gray, Iowa, and Frank M., the subject of this sketch.

In September, 1879, Frank M. Rice migrated from Illinois to Iowa, locating on a farm in Greeley township, this county. He invested his savings in eighty acres of raw prairie land and erected a small house which served as his habitation for a time until he could make additions thereto. He resided on his well-tilled acres until January, 1895, when he moved to Audubon to take up his duties as deputy clerk of the district court, which office he filled for a period of two years. He then engaged in the bakery and restaur-

rant business for a period of thirteen years. His next business venture was buying and selling of horses and conducting a sale barn in Audubon, in which business he has been successful.

On March 19, 1876, Frank M. Rice was married to Lucy Mulhollen of Rock Island county, Illinois, to which union two children have been born, Eva, born on March 19, 1878, died on December 6, 1903, and Blair E., August 12, 1893, who is deputy clerk of the court, and who was educated in the Audubon high school and the Iowa State Agricultural College at Ames.

F. M. Rice is a Democrat and takes a prominent and influential part in the political affairs of the county. He was elected to the office of clerk of the district court in the fall of 1912 and faithfully performed the duties of his office. Mr. Rice is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Audubon and is one of the best known citizens of Audubon county.

JOHN W. BARTEN.

A well-known farmer of Lincoln township, this county, of German and Swiss descent, who, by reason of his great personal energy, frugal living and good management has been very successful, is John W. Barten, who owns a splendid farm of two hundred acres.

John W. Barten was born on December 1, 1871, in Jackson county, Iowa, the son of Chris and Anna (Joss) Barten, the former a native of Beckenburg, Germany, and the latter a native of Switzerland. Chris Barten left Germany when twenty-two years of age and came to America, shortly afterward locating in Davenport, Iowa, where he worked on the Rock Island railroad for five years. Subsequently he located in Jackson county, Iowa, and there purchased a small farm and engaged in general farming until 1909, when he retired and moved to Belleview, Iowa, where he is now making his home with his children. To Chris and Anna (Joss) Barten were born eight children, of whom John W. is the only one living in Audubon county.

John W. Barten received his education in Jackson county, Iowa, and after leaving school, worked as a farm hand until 1897, or until he was twenty-six years old, at which time he came to Audubon county, locating in Lincoln township on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres which he purchased.

There Mr. Barten kept bachelor's quarters until 1901, when he was

married to Ada Meyer, daughter of August and Mary (Wehlenberg) Meyer, both natives of Germany, who married in Beecher, Illinois, later moving to Carroll county, Iowa, where they remained for thirty-eight years, at the end of which time they came to Audubon county, settling in Lincoln township, where they now reside. To John W. and Ada (Meyer) Barten have been born three children, Richard, Walter and John, all of whom are living at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Barten attend the German Lutheran church and their children are being reared in that faith.

John W. Barten has invested more than ten thousand dollars in improvements on the farm which he owns in Lincoln township. He annually raises more than one hundred head of hogs and at least sixty acres of corn, as well as thirty-five acres of small grain. Mr. Barten, who classes himself as an independent voter, has served as trustee of Lincoln township for two years, and also as school director.

One of the features of Mr. Barten's farm is his large barn, which is sixty by sixty feet, and one of the most completely-equipped barns in Lincoln township. Mr. Barten believes in following the most up-to-date and approved methods in farming, and uses only the most improved devices and equipment in his farm work. Like so many farmers in this section, he devotes much attention to raising hogs and cattle in connection with the raising of corn. John W. Barten is one of the highly-esteemed citizens of Lincoln township, who is admired and respected by his neighbors and by the host of friends he has made in this section.

TONY M. RASMUSSEN.

The gentleman whose name forms the caption of this review, mayor and well-known attorney of Exira, this county, did not come to this county from his native land of Denmark until he had attained the age of seventeen years, yet he has won for himself an enviable reputation as an attorney of force and ability and a public official of keen administrative capacity. The life story of Tony M. Rasmussen, mayor of the city of Exira, is an example of what can be accomplished by an immigrant boy in this land if given an opportunity and the possession of native talents.

T. M. Rasmussen was born in Denmark on March 26, 1872, son of M. P. and Elsie Rasmussen, natives of that kingdom. In the year 1889, when T. M. Rasmussen was seventeen years of age, the family emigrated to



TONY M. RASMUSSEN

America and came to this county. After residing one year in Exira, they settled on a farm in Hamlin township. The mother of T. M. Rasmussen died in Denmark in 1876, and the father married a second time before coming to America. M. P. Rasmussen died in Seattle, Washington, in October, 1909. There were two sons by the first marriage, Anthony M., or "Tony" M., the subject of this review, and C. M., a resident of Spokane, Washington. By the second marriage there were six sons, namely: E. I., who was drowned during the summer of 1899, while in bathing; Chris, a citizen of the state of Washington; Martin, deceased, and Andrew and Gerlow, both residing in the state of Washington.

After coming to Audubon county with his parents, Tony Rasmussen assisted his father upon the farm and attended the district school in the neighborhood of the farm home. The young man was ambitious and had a desire to advance among his fellows; consequently, he studied diligently, preparing himself for the vocation of teaching, and taught for four years in the schools of Audubon county after he had attained the age of twenty-six years. In fact, the career of this Danish-American citizen did not properly begin until after the time when most boys of American birth are fairly well established in their callings or professions. Tony Rasmussen landed upon the shores of America at an age when American-born youth are almost through the high school. He was handicapped by not being able to speak our language; yet, in spite of this and the other handicaps of being poor and having to make his own way in the world, this immigrant boy quickly acquired a speaking knowledge of the English language and educated himself while working in the fields. His ambition did not stop at becoming proficient in the art of teaching, but he began the study of law while engaged in his school work. He saved his money, entered Drake University and was graduated with honor from the law school of that excellent institution of learning in 1904, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Laws. Thus admirably equipped he was admitted to the bar and at once began the practice of his profession at Exira. Mr. Rasmussen is recognized as one of the ablest legal lights in the county and has met with gratifying success.

In 1906, T. M. Rasmussen was united in marriage to Martha E. Nelson, daughter of Lorenz P. Nelson, of this county, to which union two children have been born, Chester Cole and Elsie. Mayor Rasmussen was reared in the Danish Lutheran faith, but is not now a member of any religious denomination. He is fraternally connected with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, a member of the lodge at Exira. He is a Democrat in politics and for years has been regarded as one of the leaders of his party in Audubon

county. He is now serving his second term as mayor of Exira and it is said of him that he is one of the most capable and progressive executives that the city has ever had. Mr. Rasmussen's success is the outcome of patient purpose, backed by the exercise of native ability, and is all the more striking when adverse conditions under which he labored from the outset of his career in Audubon county are taken into consideration.

JOSEPH ALEXANDER CALDWELL.

While success cannot be achieved without unflagging industry, the futility of effort is often noticeable in the business world, resulting from the fact that it is not combined with sound judgment. Many a man who gives his life to earnest and unremitting toil does not acquire a competence, but when his labors are well directed, prosperity always follows him. Mr. Caldwell's work has been supplemented by careful management, and today he is numbered among the successful men of Audubon county.

Joseph A. Caldwell was born in Virginia on November 27, 1854, the son of Lewis and Julia (Shepherd) Caldwell, the former a native of West Virginia, born in 1830, and the latter a native of Belmont county, Ohio, born on November 27, 1831. Lewis Caldwell and his wife were married in Virginia and migrated to Illinois when their son, Joseph A., was only six years old. Mr. Caldwell was a farmer and remained in Illinois the rest of his life. He and his wife were the parents of six children, of whom Joseph A. was the eldest, the other five being Mary, Hortense, Isaac Franklin, William and Lewis, Jr. Of these children Hortense and Lewis, Jr., are deceased. Lewis Caldwell died in Illinois and his widow, who is still living with her son, Joseph A., is now eighty-four years of age.

Joseph A. Caldwell received his education in the common schools and took up farming in Illinois, which vocation he followed in that state until he was twenty-seven years of age, at which time he came to this county, locating in Sharon township, where he purchased eighty acres of land. Later he sold this tract and purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Leroy township, which he later sold, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres in a different part of Leroy township, to which he later added forty acres, still later adding another forty, and is now the owner of two hundred and forty acres of fine farming land in that township.

On May 7, 1878, Joseph A. Caldwell was married to Hattie E. Godwin,

who was born on May 10, 1854, a daughter of John and Anna (Tong) Godwin, the former of whom was a native of Canada, but who was reared in Ohio. His wife was born in England and came to this country at the age of ten years, her parents settling in LaSalle county, Illinois.

To Joseph A. and Hattie E. (Godwin) Caldwell one child has been born, a son, Chester Arthur, born on August 17, 1880. He married Anna Anderson, to which union four children have been born, Dick, Merle, Mildred and Harriet.

Joseph A. Caldwell is the present street commissioner of Audubon. During the time that he was living in Leroy township he served as trustee of that township. Mr. Caldwell is a man who is keenly interested in education and good roads and in public improvements of all kinds. As a progressive citizen, who has stood as a stanch advocate of improvements, he has contributed much to the development of Audubon county. He is a Republican and has always taken a keen interest in the affairs of his party in this county. The Caldwells are all earnest and faithful members of the Methodist church, and are active in the affairs of this church.

KRISTINE M. SORENSEN.

Kristine M. Sorensen, a well-known photographer of Audubon, has made a remarkable success of her vocation. It is customary to speak of this man or that man as self-made, and in this respect Kristine M. Sorensen is well entitled to rank as a self-made woman, having worked her way unaided through the vicissitudes and adversities of life to an admirable and influential position in the business life of Audubon. Her success in business affairs has been due to her steady persistence, her unfailing integrity and excellent judgment qualities, which always assure success. Miss Sorensen enjoys the confidence and esteem of the public to a marked degree.

Kristine M. Sorensen was born in Denmark on February 7, 1886, daughter of Jeppe and Johanna (Madsen) Sorensen, natives of that splendid little kingdom, who were married in their native country. Jeppe Sorensen, who now is practically retired from the more arduous duties of life, was a farmer and was also engaged in fishing, which vocation he carried on during the summer months. He also carried the mail across to the mainland, his home being on an island. Jeppe Sorensen and his wife were the parents of ten children, Soren Peter, Bodel, Marie, Mads, Olie, Kristine, Claus, Jens, Christ-

ian and Johanna, all of whom are living with the exception of Bodel and Marie. Mrs. Johanna (Madsen) Sorensen died in her native land, while her husband, who survives her, is still living in Denmark.

Kristine M. Sorensen was educated in the public schools of her native county, and after leaving school took up the profession of teaching, which she continued for seven years in Denmark, after which she came to America, arriving in this country in September, 1913. She proceeded almost immediately to Cedar Falls, Iowa, where she remained for six months, at the end of which time she came to this county, locating at Audubon, where she opened a photograph gallery, and has been active as a photographer since that time. No better work in photography is done in Audubon county than that done at the studio of Kristine M. Sorensen, which enjoys a large and lucrative patronage, not only from the people of Audubon, but from the people of the county and surrounding country as well. Miss Sorensen's brothers, Christian, Mads, Olie and Claus, came to America some years ago, but they later returned to Denmark. Miss Sorensen is a member of the Lutheran church, and takes an active interest in this denomination in Audubon, as well as in all good works hereabout, and is held in the highest regard in her large circle of friends and acquaintances.

J. M. GRAHAM.

J. M. Graham, a well-known attorney of Audubon, Iowa, a member of the firm of Graham & Graham, has been a resident of this county since 1871, having come here with his parents at the age of three years, when they removed from Washington, Iowa, to this county. Few attorneys in this part of the state received a more thorough and extensive training for the law than J. M. Graham, whose ability and talents were quickly recognized by the people of this county, and who, during a practice here of twenty years, has built up a large and lucrative law business. Like so many lawyers of the present generation, Mr. Graham came from the school room into the court room, having, after being graduated from one of the leading institutions of learning in this state, served two years as the principal of the Bayard high school.

J. M. Graham was born in Monroe county, Ohio, on October 25, 1868, the son of Samuel A. and Ellen (Hunter) Graham, both natives of that county, who, in 1870, removed to Washington county, Iowa, and one year later came to Audubon county. Samuel A. Graham was a well-known

farmer in Ohio, and enjoyed a remarkable success in farming after coming to this state. He taught several terms of school in his native state, and at one time was school commissioner in Monroe county, Ohio. He also was a member of the board of supervisors of Audubon county for six years after removing to this state. In 1871 he and his wife and family located in the southwest quarter of section 16, Melville township, and there he engaged in general farming until 1899, when he retired and moved to Audubon. He owned at one time three hundred and twenty acres of land. To Samuel A. and Ellen (Hunter) Graham were born two sons, J. M. and John, who are now in partnership in the practice of law in Audubon.

J. M. Graham received his preliminary education in the common schools of Melville township, and in the high school at Audubon, having been a member of the first class that was graduated from the Audubon high school, in 1887. After finishing high school he attended Ames College and in 1890 was graduated from that institution, taking the degree of Bachelor of Science. Upon leaving Ames College, Mr. Graham taught school for two years, serving as principal of the high school at Bayard. In 1893 he entered the law school of Drake University at Des Moines, from which institution he received the degree of Bachelor of Law in 1894. Upon leaving Drake University, Mr. Graham returned to Audubon and began the practice of law. He formed a partnership with his brother, John, in 1910, since which time the brothers have been practicing under the firm name of Graham & Graham and have been very successful.

On July 19, 1894, J. M. Graham was married to Catherine Brown, daughter of Leonard and Nancy Brown, to which union six children have been born, Lorrain, Ellen, Margaret, Maxine, Catherine and Mabel, all of whom are living save the latter.

A Democrat in politics, Mr. Graham served two terms as county attorney of Audubon county, which is the legal limit for such service in this state. He has been a member of the school board for eleven years. Mrs. Graham is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Graham is a Mason and a Knight Templar, a member of the commandery at Audubon and of the Shrine at Des Moines. He also is a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Maccabees at Audubon.

An earnest and sincere counselor in the law, a learned and capable practitioner in court, Mr. Graham is a well-known citizen of Audubon county and popular with all classes. His pleasing and agreeable personality has been no small factor in the building up of the extensive practice which he enjoys, and the firm with which he is connected has the full confidence of both bench and bar, as well as of the general public hereabout.

CHARLES L. JOHNSON.

It is not an easy task to describe adequately the man who has led an eminently active and busy life, and who has attained to a position of relative distinction in the community with which his interests are allied, but biography finds its most perfect justification, nevertheless, in tracing and recording such life histories. It is with a full appreciation of all that is demanded, and with the painstaking scrutiny which must be accorded each statement that the writer has essayed the task of touching briefly upon the details of Mr. Johnson's career. Charles L. Johnson, a well-known member of the Johnson Grain Company, of Audubon, Iowa, has achieved a notable success in life, and is one of the best-known citizens of this county.

Charles L. Johnson was born on October 19, 1884, in Dallas county, Iowa, the son of Matt and Maria (Christensen) Johnson, the former of whom was a native of Schleswig, Germany, and the latter of Denmark. Matt Johnson came to this country when he was twenty-seven years of age, and located first at Des Moines, Iowa, where he was married. He worked for a time in the coal mines near Des Moines, and from that place removed to Dallas county, Iowa, where he purchased a farm of two hundred and sixty-two acres. This farm he later sold for thirty-five dollars an acre, and in 1891 came to this county, locating in Audubon, where he engaged in the grain and live-stock business, which he continued successfully for twelve years, after which he added coal to his business, and built up a large and lucrative patronage in grain, live stock and coal in Audubon and the surrounding community. Matt Johnson died on December 26, 1911. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, Anna, Lena, Mollie, Elda, Emma, Charles L., May and Alva, all of whom are living, with the exception of Anna and Mollie. Mrs. Johnson is still living in Audubon.

Charles L. Johnson spent one year in the public schools of Dallas county, Iowa, afterwards finishing his education in the schools of Audubon county, and after leaving school entered the grain and coal business in Audubon with his father, and has now been engaged in this business for fourteen years, at present being associated with his brother, Alva, also a well-known and progressive business man of Audubon county.

On April 16, 1907, Charles L. Johnson was married to Jessie Mushruch, daughter of Michael and Eliza Mushruch. The Mushruch family is one of the oldest in Audubon county, having come here when most of the farming land was a raw prairie. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are the parents of two children, Ruby and Mary.

Mr. Johnson is a Republican and was elected city treasurer of Audubon several years ago, and is now serving in this office for the third term, this fact alone speaking well for the manner in which he has discharged the duties of this responsible office. He has been prominent for many years in the councils of his party in the city of Audubon and in the county.

The Johnson Grain Company is well known throughout Audubon county, and has built up an enviable reputation for honest and scrupulous dealing, the reputation of this firm being founded upon the upright characters of the two brothers, Charles L. and Alva Johnson, who have so successfully carried out the sterling business principles adopted by their father when he established the business many years ago.

EDWIN S. VAN GORDER.

Edwin S. Van Gorder, now president of the First National Bank, of Audubon, this county, was born on July 6, 1871, in Exira, Audubon county, Iowa, son of Charles and Laura J. (Delahoyde) Van Gorder, the former of whom is vice-president of the First National Bank, of Audubon (a biographical sketch of whom, with portrait, is presented elsewhere in this volume), and educated in the common schools and at Grinnell College, at Grinnell, Iowa, from which latter institution he was graduated with the class of 1893, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy. In 1894 he took a post-graduate course in Harvard University, and a short time later entered the banking business, with his father, in Audubon, becoming president of the First National Bank in 1911, having begun his service with that bank as assistant cashier. He has been engaged in the banking business throughout his entire business career, and is generally recognized as one of the most careful bankers in this section of the state, holding a high place in the regard of those connected with banking circles hereabout.

On June 28, 1898, Edwin S. Van Gorder was married to Helen Getchell, of Des Moines, Iowa, daughter of Charles Getchell, a prominent lumberman of that city. To this union two sons have been born, Edwin S., Jr., and Charles G.

Mr. Van Gorder is a heavy land-holder, owning large tracts in Iowa and in the northeastern part of South Dakota. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias at Audubon and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. In politics, he is a Republican.

FRANK OSCAR NIKLASON.

The history of a county or state as well as that of a nation, is chiefly a chronicle of the lives and deeds of those who have conferred honor and dignity upon society. The world judges the character of a community by those of its representative citizens, and yields its tribute of admiration and respect to those whose words and actions constitute the record of a community's prosperity and pride. Among the prominent citizens of this county, who are known because of their success in its affairs, and the part they have taken in the civic life of Audubon county, is Frank Oscar Niklason, who is a well-known horse dealer and real-estate man of Audubon.

Frank Oscar Niklason was born on June 13, 1869, in Gullspång, Sweden, the son of Niklas and Matilda (Hajlund) Niklason, who were farmers in their native land. Niklas Niklason was a dealer in live stock, also, and was a very well-to-do man, owning a fine estate in Sweden.

Frank Oscar Niklason was educated in the schools of his native land, and when a little past fifteen years of age came to America, where he joined his uncle, John Swansen. After arriving in this country he was engaged in farm labor for one year on his uncle's farm, and also worked for two years for a man by the name of Yaggy. Mr. Niklason began farming for himself in Douglas township, this county, where he rented land for two years, after which he purchased two hundred acres of land at twenty dollars an acre, and operated this land for fourteen years, at the end of which period he bought one hundred and twenty acres east of Audubon, in Leroy township, where he lived for one year. After owning this latter farm for two years he disposed of it and in the fall of 1903 purchased six hundred acres of land in Douglas township. In the spring of 1914 he bought a tract of eighty acres located east of Audubon, in a good farming community, and now owns altogether six hundred and eighty acres of well-improved land.

Frank O. Niklason moved to Audubon in the spring of 1905, and has been engaged in buying and selling horses for the past ten years. He ships annually something like one thousand head, which amounts practically to a carload of horses weekly. Mr. Niklason purchased a fine modern house, and has lived in this home since the fall of 1911.

On February 15, 1893, Frank O. Niklason was married to Martha Stetzel, the daughter of George Stetzel, an early settler in Douglas township, this county, who is now deceased, to which union three children have been born: Clarence Raymond, now a student at Leland Stanford Uni-



FRANK O. NIKLASON

versity, in California, and Harold Franklin and Donald Niklas, students in the Audubon high school.

Mr. Niklason is identified with the Republican party and has served in the city council of Audubon for two terms, but with that exception has not been especially prominent in politics. The career of Mr. Niklason shows what may be accomplished by a young man of upright habits and strong determination. Having come to this country from a foreign land with no resources, Mr. Niklason is now one of the wealthy and substantial men of Audubon county, and has accumulated all of his property within a comparatively few years. Mr. and Mrs. Niklason and family are members of the Evangelical church, and Mr. Niklason is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and of the Modern Woodmen of America.

ARTHUR C. HARMON.

The history of a county or state, as well as that of a nation, is chiefly a chronicle of the lives and deeds of those who have conferred honor and dignity upon society. The world judges the character of a community by the enterprise and progress of its citizens and yields its tributes of admiration and respect to those whose words and actions constitute the record of a state's prosperity and pride. Among the prominent citizens of Audubon county who are well known because of the part they have taken in public affairs and because of a long residence in the county, from boyhood to the present, Arthur C. Harmon, successful merchant and county coroner, concerning whose life this review is prepared, occupies high rank.

Arthur C. Harmon was born on June 9, 1873, in Henry county, Missouri, son of George and Seretta (Newell) Harmon, natives of Kentucky and Ohio, respectively. George Harmon was a Union soldier who served in the Fourteenth Kentucky Cavalry for four long years during the Civil War, in which service he took part in many hard-fought battles and engagements. His command was part of the army under General Sherman and he saw the hardest kind of fighting under this brave and intrepid commander, his last service being in the final fighting around Richmond. After the war, George Harmon migrated to Illinois and thence to Missouri. From Missouri he came to Iowa, about the year 1875, and purchased a farm near the town of Avoca, in Pottawottamie county. In 1880 he came to Audubon county and

settled on a farm three miles west of Audubon, in Douglas township. In 1910 he retired from active farming operations and moved to Audubon, the county seat, where he died on August 20, 1912, his wife having departed this life but few days before, on August 12, of that same year. George and Seretta (Newell) Harmon were the parents of three sons and three daughters, as follow: Arthur C., the subject of this sketch; Albert M., a farmer living near Exira, this county; Mrs. Mary Hollister, of Guthrie county, Iowa; Mrs. Daisy Fairholm, of Messina, Iowa; Mrs. Lulu Gray, residing in Audubon, this county, and Frank C., who is engaged in the furniture and undertaking business at Mingo, Iowa.

Arthur C. Harmon was educated in the district schools of Audubon county and followed the vocation of farming until about three years after his marriage, in 1898. In the year 1901 he left the farm and moved to Audubon, where he has since resided. For a period of eight years after moving to Audubon he was employed in a furniture and undertaking establishment and in 1909 engaged in the furniture business for himself. In November, 1910, he moved his furniture stock into his present commodious quarters, his store occupying a large brick structure on South Park place, twenty-five by ninety feet in extent, filled with a modern stock of goods suitable for his extensive trade. Mr. Harmon's store was visited by a disastrous fire on February 3, 1913, and the entire stock of goods was destroyed. Undaunted by this disaster, the owner immediately restocked his place and was soon doing business again.

On January 15, 1898, Arthur C. Harmon was married to Lola B. Chamberlain, daughter of George and Rhoda (Mallett) Chamberlain, natives of Virginia and New York, respectively. Mr. Harmon was born in Poweshiek county, Iowa. In 1880 the Chamberlain family settled in Guthrie county, this state, where they resided until 1893, in which year they came to Audubon county, Mr. Chamberlain still residing on the farm he bought at that time. Mrs. Chamberlain died in May, 1909. Mrs. Harmon is a member of the Pythian Sisters and of the Eastern Star lodges and is popular in the social life of Audubon. She is an intelligent and capable woman, an excellent and faithful helpmeet to her husband. To Arthur C. and Lola B. (Chamberlain) Harmon one son has been born, Harold George, born on February 17, 1900, who now is attending the public school.

Arthur C. Harmon is a Progressive in his political views, having cast his lot with the Roosevelt party in 1912. He and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and he is fraternally affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, being a member of the chapter and the

commandery of that order. He also is a member of the Knights of Pythias, Pythian Sisters, and the Fraternal Union. Mr. Harmon was elected to the office of county coroner in 1906 and served continuously for eight years, his years of service in that office speaking well for the esteem in which he is held in the community. Mr. Harmon's first official duty in the coroner's office was to hold an inquest on the body of Theodore Martin, and his last official act was to hold an inquest on the body of William Martin, son of Theodore Martin. In every phase of life's activities in which he has been engaged, Mr. Harmon has been true to every trust and because of his genuine worth and upright character he has earned and retains the sincere regard of all who know him.

LEROY J. OLDAKER, D. D. S.

Leroy J. Oldaker, now a well-known dentist of Exira, who, in a comparatively brief period, has built up a large and flourishing practice in Exira and surrounding country, was born on June 24, 1873, in Johnson county, Iowa, son of James W. and Adelaide (Crosby) Oldaker, and received his elementary education in the public schools of that county. After finishing the course prescribed in the common schools, he took a course in the academy at Iowa City, after which he decided to take up dentistry, with which end in view he matriculated for the professional course in the Iowa State University, and was a student in this institution when the Spanish-American War broke out. He enlisted for service in Company D, Fiftieth Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, on June 23, 1898, and was mustered out of the service in November of the same year. Returning to college, he completed his course and was graduated in 1900, immediately thereafter beginning the active practice of his profession in Exira.

On July 13, 1904, Dr. Leroy J. Oldaker was married to Maude Campbell, daughter of Silas and Adell Campbell, and to this union was born one child, James Phillip, now deceased. Doctor and Mrs. Oldaker are members of the Congregational church.

Doctor Oldaker is a Republican and is one of the leaders of his party in this county. He has served as mayor of Exira and also as a member of the city council, and discharged the important duties of these offices to the entire satisfaction of his fellow townsmen. Doctor Oldaker is a Mason of high degree and is a member of the Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Des Moines. He also is a member of the Knights of Pythias.

FRED REYNOLDS.

Born in Johnson county, Iowa, on August 16, 1856, Fred Reynolds, one of the older residents of Audubon county, has lived in this county during the period of its greatest growth and prosperity and is widely known and highly respected. Mr. Reynolds is the son of John H. and Lucy (Seamons) Reynolds, natives of Suffolkshire, England. The father was a laborer in the old country, who came to the United States in the spring of 1856, landing at New York city. He did not remain long in New York, but started west, proceeding as far as Iowa City, at that time the terminus of the railroad. There the father secured work on the farm of Samuel J. Kirkwood, later governor of the state of Iowa during the time of the Civil War. He worked there for several years and then, for a few years, rented land. In 1867 he purchased forty acres of land, on which the family lived until 1880, in which year they came to Audubon county, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of land in Greeley township, where John H. Reynolds and his wife spent the rest of their lives. They were the parents of eight children, who lived to maturity, as follow: Fred, the subject of this sketch; Marguerite, wife of George Hoover, of Audubon, and Samuel W., Mrs. Mary J. Hunt, Mrs. Katie V. Bell, Mrs. Esther M. Barrack, Mrs. Lillian L. Stonebrook and Ida.

Fred Reynolds lived with his parents until he was married. Several years before his marriage he had purchased eighty acres of wild prairie land, without fences or any other kind of improvement. Shortly before his marriage he built on this place a small house, sixteen by twenty-four feet, consisting of three rooms, which served as a home until 1912, in which year he built his present commodious eight-room house. This house is entirely modern in its construction, except for the furnace, and is equipped with gas-lights, bath and waterworks.

On January 1, 1888, Fred Reynolds was married to Savilla Paige, of this county, who was born on March 6, 1862, daughter of Jerome B. and Sarah M. (Durfee) Paige, natives of Ohio, who moved from Ohio to Illinois, and from Illinois to Guthrie county, Iowa, where their daughter, Saville, was born. The family came to Audubon county in 1864, and here Jerome B. Paige and his wife spent their last days. They were the parents of nine children, Mrs. Mariah Bateman (deceased), George, Malachi, Mrs. Ruth Currier, Mrs. Sylvia Carley, Mrs. Levina McMullen, Mrs. Fred Reynolds, Mrs. Matie Herron and Mrs. Laura Judea.

To Fred and Savilla (Paige) Reynolds have been born two children, Lulu L., born on August 19, 1890, and John D., May 12, 1892, both of whom

live at home with their parents. Lulu is a teacher in the schools of Greeley township, this county, and has been very successful in her useful calling.

One of the organizers of the Greeley Center Methodist Episcopal church and a charter member of that congregation, Fred Reynolds has been quite prominent in the affairs of the Methodist church in Greeley township. His father and mother also were charter members of this congregation. Politically, Mr. Reynolds is a Republican and for nine years served as township trustee. He previously had served for four years as township clerk, and is now serving his second term in that office. For twenty years Mr. Reynolds has been township committeeman of the Republican party and has taken a very active part in local politics. Long before the days of rural delivery, when the mail was carried on horseback or on foot, Mr. Reynolds was postmaster at Horace, in Greeley township, serving for seven years in that capacity.

Not only from the standpoint of long residence, but from the standpoint of the many friends he has made since coming to Audubon county, Fred Reynolds deserves to rank among the leading citizens of Greeley township.

FRED C. HEPP.

The following is a sketch of a plain, honest man of affairs who, by correct methods and a strict regard for the interests of his patrons, has made his influence felt in the town of Gray, this county, having won for himself distinctive prestige in the business circles of that pleasant village. He would be the last man to pose as a subject for romance or to court fanciful encomium; nevertheless, his life presents much that is interesting and valuable and which may be studied with profit by the young men whose careers are yet to be made. Mr. Hepp is one of those men whose integrity and strength of character inevitably force them into an admirable notoriety which their modesty never would seek; who command the respect of their contemporaries and their posterity and leave the impress of their individuality deeply stamped on the community where their labors have been performed.

Fred C. Hepp was born on February 21, 1860, in Bureau county, Illinois, the son of John C. and Margaretta (Sopf) Hepp, the former of whom was born in 1828 and died in the fall of 1895, and the latter in June, 1833, and died in June, 1882, at the age of forty-nine years and nine months. John C. Hepp was a native of Germany, who immigrated to Bureau county,

Illinois, when a young man, and was married there. In 1865 he came to Iowa, settling in Poweshiek county, where he bought a farm. In 1872 he moved to Jasper county, Iowa, where he farmed until 1881, in which year he came to Audubon county, settling in Lincoln township, where he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land, on which he spent the rest of his life. To John C. and Margaretta (Sopf) Hepp were born eight children, namely: Fred C., the subject of this sketch; John E., a contractor in Audubon, Iowa; Amelia, who died in 1886; Carl, who died in Illinois; Delia, Charles and Ida, all of whom live on the home farm in Lincoln township; and Ida, who died while the family was living in Jasper county. John C. Hepp served in the German army during the rebellion of 1848 and came to America afterward. He enlisted in the Union army in the fall of 1863, serving until the close of the Civil War. He then moved to Poweshiek county and purchased land at two dollars and fifty cents an acre.

Fred C. Hepp remained on the home farm with his parents until he had reached manhood's estate and then came to this county, opening a blacksmith shop in the town of Gray in the spring of 1887. He established a hardware store in the same town in 1909 and has built up a large and lucrative business. From the point of years of service, he is the oldest blacksmith in Audubon county, having served at this trade for more than twenty-seven years. He began as a blacksmith on the farm when a boy, doing work for the neighbors. He has a large and complete stock of hardware and is considered one of the successful men of that section of the county.

On March 23, 1883, Fred C. Hepp was married to Elizabeth Staumbaugh, and to this union three sons and four daughters have been born, as follow: Mahlon, a graduate of Iowa State University, who is now principal of the manual-training department of the Minneapolis schools; Stella, who is the wife of William Thompson, a bank cashier of Correctionville, Iowa; Florence, a student in the Chicago Musical Conservatory, who has been a teacher in the schools of Audubon county for several years; Esther, who is a teacher in the Ross schools; George, who is attending manual-training school in Minneapolis, and Zola and Virgin, who are pupils in the schools of Gray.

Fred C. Hepp is identified with the Democratic party and was postmaster of Gray during Cleveland's last administration and served as mayor of Gray for two terms. Mr. and Mrs. Hepp and family attend the United Brethren church, although they are not members. Fraternally, Mr. Hepp is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Hepp is widely known and deservedly popular

in that part of the county. He is generous in his dealings with his neighbors and friends, genial in his manner and upright and honorable in all of the relations of life.

MARTIN E. MORTENSEN.

The large Danish-American element of the population of Audubon county is active in agricultural pursuits, prominent in the professions and successful in the marts of trade. The people from the little kindgom of Denmark quickly assimilate American ideas and customs and become active and component parts of the body politic in a short time after landing on the shores of this country. The Danish people of Audubon county are noted for their progressive attitude toward all things tending to improve the condition of all the people and have become thoroughly Americanized. Not a few of them have achieved wealth and local distinction since taking up their residence in this county, and the individual referred to at the head of this article has not only succeeded in firmly establishing himself on an excellent financial footing in the land of his adoption, but has received distinguished political preferment from the people of Audubon county and is now serving the public very acceptably in his second term as county treasurer.

Martin E. Mortensen was born in Schleswig, Denmark (now a German province), on February 3, 1856, son of Peter and Bodel Marie (Schmidt) Mortensen. He was educated in the schools of his native land and was reared to perform farm work. The labor on the little farm which his people cultivated was all done by hand and was of the hardest kind. When he had attained the age of twenty-four years, Martin E. Mortensen emigrated to America and came to Iowa, locating at Atlantic, in the year 1880. For two years after his arrival at Atlantic he worked at various forms of labor in the city. In 1882 he came to Audubon county and "worked out" at farm labor in Lincoln and Cameron townships, being thus engaged for some years, at the end of which time he rented a farm for one year. This venture prospering, in the year 1889 he purchased from Mr. Neff a farm of eighty acres in Sharon township, at a cost of twenty-five dollars an acre. After tilling this farm for some time he sold it and invested in two hundred acres of excellent land in Hamlin township, which farm is now tilled by his son, Peter E. Mortensen. In 1912 Mr. Mortensen retired from the farm and moved to the town of Hamlin and in the following autumn was elected to the office of county treasurer on the Democratic ticket, being re-elected in 1914.

In 1882 Martin E. Mortensen was married to Sine Marie Rattenborg, to which union have been born six children, two of whom are deceased, the surviving children being as follow: Mrs. Mary Aagaard, of this county; Peter E., who lives on the home farm in Hamlin township; Mrs. Inger Aagaard, of this county, and Hans, formerly bookkeeper in the Bank of Gray, this county, now deputy county treasurer. Mr. Mortensen's mother came to America and resided with her children until her death, her husband having died in Denmark.

Mr. and Mrs. Mortensen are members of the Lutheran church. He is a staunch Democrat and for years has taken a prominent part in the political affairs of the county, being regarded as one of the leaders of his party, having filled various township offices in Hamlin township before his election as county treasurer. A perusal of the foregoing paragraphs, which tell the story of the rise of a poor Danish immigrant to a position of affluence and standing in the community, will convince the reader that America, more than ever, is the land of opportunity. The foreign-born citizen will seize at any honest labor in order to gain a livelihood during his first years of residence and this industry accounts in great measure for his success. Mr. Mortensen's striking success may be attributed to industry, perseverance, keen financial ability and the inherent frugality which is a national attribute of the people of Denmark.

CHARLES JOHNSON.

The respect which should always be accorded to the brave sons of the North who left home and peaceful pursuits of civil life to give their services and their lives, if need be, to preserve the integrity of the American Union, is certainly due the memory of the late Charles Johnson, to a brief review of whose life the following lines are devoted. He proved his love and loyalty to the government on the long, tiresome marches, in all kinds of situations, exposed to summer's withering sun and winter's freezing cold; on the lonely picket line a target to the unseen foe; on the tented field and in the flame and smoke of battle, where the rattle of musketry mingled with the terrible concussion of the bursting shell, and the deep diapason of the cannon's roar, which made up the sublime, but awful, chorus of death. Among these valiant defenders of the Union and of Old Glory, the late Charles Johnson was one.

Charles Johnson, one of the pioneer settlers of Audubon county, Iowa,



MR. AND MRS. CHARLES JOHNSON

was born on February 11, 1823, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. When a young man he removed from Philadelphia to Bucks county, Pennsylvania, where he was reared to young manhood. Subsequently he removed to Princeton, Illinois, where he worked as a farm laborer for the same man who had employed him in Pennsylvania.

The late Charles Johnson was married on April 20, 1858, to Barbara Ball, and after their marriage they settled in Putnam county, Illinois, where they lived until the outbreak of the Civil War. After the close of the war they moved to Macon county, Illinois, and lived there for eleven years on a rented farm. In 1875 they moved to Greene county, Iowa, and in 1882 sold their fine farm in Greene county and came to Audubon county. Here Mr. Johnson purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, raw prairie land, wholly unbroken, for which he paid seven dollars an acre. Here he erected a small house, consisting of one room down and two rooms upstairs. He later added five rooms to this house, and this became in time a good house. Subsequently, he erected a fine barn on this farm, and the family lived on that place for twenty-one years, at the expiration of which time they moved to Audubon and bought a comfortable residence. Mr. Johnson also became the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of land in Guthrie county, Iowa, and was accounted a very substantial citizen. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson began life with nothing, and during all of their early struggles, Mrs. Johnson practically supported the family from the proceeds of her poultry and the dairy. Mrs. Johnson now cultivates three lots in Audubon, and is hale and hearty despite her seventy-seven years.

In 1862 the late Charles Johnson enlisted for service as a Union soldier in the Civil War, in Company C, One Hundred and Thirteenth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served eighteen months. He contracted lung fever during his service and was not able to perform strenuous war duty, part of the time being detailed to hospital duty. Charles Johnson was a Republican and served as constable while living in Illinois, discharging the duties of this office in a creditable manner. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were lifelong members of the Presbyterian church, and Mrs. Johnson is still an active worker in this church, in whose welfare she is deeply interested. Fraternally, Mr. Johnson was a member of Allison Post, Grand Army of the Republic. He was also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and filled all the chairs in that lodge. His death occurred on December 20, 1910, and he was buried on December 22, 1910, under the auspices of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Charles Johnson's widow, Mrs. Barbara (Ball) Johnson, was born on

September 9, 1837, in Belmont county, Ohio. She is a daughter of Vachel and Frances (Everett) Ball, who were natives of Virginia and Ohio, respectively. Vachel Ball was a descendant of the Ball family of Virginia, which was related to George Washington. In 1849 the family went to La Salle, Illinois, and then by train they removed to Indiana state, and settled on a farm four miles west of Princeton. Dr. Vachel Ball removed his family to Poweshie' county Iowa. His death occurred at the advanced age of ninety.

To Charles Johnson and wife were two sons, Charles, Jr., and Eugene M. Charles, who lives near Audubon, Iowa, married Nora Reddy, and they have five living children, Nellie, Grace, Wilbur and Willie (twins) and Gerald. Eugene M. lives at Audubon, where he is engaged in the automobile and garage business. He married Mary Snyder, to which union three children have been born, Glen, Iola and Charles Leon.

Mrs. Johnson is a member of the Woman's Relief Corps and also belongs to the Daughters of Rebekah, and takes an active interest in both these organizations.

LOUIS GROTELUSCHEN.

The success of men in business or in any vocation depends upon character as well as upon knowledge, it being a self-evident proposition that honesty is the best policy. Business demands confidence and where that is lacking business ceases. In every community some men are known for their upright lives, strong common sense and moral worth. Their neighbors and acquaintances respect them, the younger generation heeds their example; and when they wrap the draperies of their couches about them and lie down to pleasant dreams, posterity listens with reverence to the story of their quiet and useful lives. Among such men in this county, Louis Groteluschen, merchant and president of the Farmers Savings Bank of Gray, takes high rank. Though Mr. Groteluschen has been successful in material pursuits, he is a man of modest and unassuming demeanor, a fine type of the reliable self-made American; a friend of the poor, charitable to the faults of his neighbors and active in his support of laudable public enterprises. Mr. Groteluschen is proud of Audubon county and of the great state of Iowa, and is zealously concerned in their progress and prosperity, being a man who, in every respect, merits the high esteem in which he is held by the business men and all the people of Audubon county.

Louis Groteluschen was born on April 29, 1868, in Platte county,

Nebraska, the son of John and Anna (Loseke) Groteluschen, natives of Oldenburg, Germany, who were married there in 1866. They immigrated to America, proceeding once to Nebraska, driving from Omaha to Platte River, where they became citizens. They traveled thirty-three miles, their journey to Omaha having been from Pittsburgh. Upon reaching Platte county they purchased a section of land and for a time lived in dug-out houses. Their business prospered from the start and eventually they owned several hundred acres in Nebraska, becoming quite well-to-do. He died in 1904, at the age of 37 years. He and his wife were the parents of the following children: Louis, Ida (deceased), Adolph, Lena, Elizabeth, Emil, Otto, Bertha and Minnie. All of whom live in Platte county, Nebraska save the subject of this sketch.

In 1894 Louis Groteluschen left Nebraska and came to Audubon county, locating at Gray, where he engaged in the hardware business, and has thus been engaged very successfully since that time. Mr. Groteluschen at first was associated with A. F. Greenwalt, who later became county auditor, under the firm name of Greenwalt & Groteluschen; later the firm being known as Groteluschen & Newell. Since 1910 the firm has been known as L. Groteluschen & Company, dealers in hardware and agricultural implements. A. F. Greenwalt, formerly associated with Mr. Groteluschen, is now cashier of the First National Bank of Coon Rapids. For ten years Mr. Groteluschen bought and shipped live stock in addition to his other business. He has a well-stocked store at Gray and owns a tract of two hundred and forty acres of land in Nebraska. Mr. Groteluschen has been connected with the Farmers Savings Bank three years, and was originally partner with Mr. Wiley.

On May 22, 1895, Louis Groteluschen was married to Anna Ahrens, daughter of Edwin and Anna (Loseke) Ahrens, natives of Oldenburg, Germany. Edwin Ahrens located in Nebraska in 1855, an early settler of the section in which he homesteaded a farm. Anna Loseke came to this country in 1859 with her parents, who bought a team of oxen when there was no longer opportunity for transportation by water and actually walked across the state of Iowa, the party including the father, the mother, three sons and Anna. Edwin Ahrens, now deceased, prospered in his pioneer farming and became a very substantial and well-to-do citizen. His widow is still living.

To Louis and Anna (Ahrens) Groteluschen eight children have been born, Arnold (deceased), Elma, Rosa, Walter, Carl, Theodore, Herbert and Ruth, all of whom are at home and attending school.

Mr. Groteluschen is independent in his political views, supporting measures of men rather than parties and party emblems. He has never been identified with any lodges.

EDWARD C. RICE.

The character of a community is determined in ^{family or} measure by the lives of a comparatively few of its members. If its ^{family} ^{aver} and intellectual status be good, if in a social way it is a pleasant place ^{to} in which to reside; if its reputation as to the integrity of its citizens has ^{been} extended to other localities, it will be found that the standard set by the leading business men is high and their influence such as to mold the character and shape the lives of those with whom they mingle. In a general way, all this may be claimed for Audubon county, Iowa, and in placing Edward C. Rice, the cashier of the Farmers Savings Bank, of Gray, Iowa, in the front ranks of the citizens of this part of Audubon county, recognition is accorded a very worthy citizen. Although a quiet and unassuming man with no ambition for public position or leadership, he has contributed much to the material, civic, moral and financial development of his community. His admirable qualities of head and heart, and the straightforward, upright course of his daily life, have won for him the esteem and confidence of his business associates.

Edward C. Rice, cashier of the Farmers Savings Bank, of Gray, Iowa, was born on November 10, 1860, in Port Byron, Rock Island, Illinois, the son of Warren C. and Rachel (Marshall) Rice, natives of New York and Ohio, respectively. Warren C. Rice came west when a young man and settled in Illinois. He emigrated to Iowa in 1884 and settled in Audubon county, where he followed the vocation of a farmer. After he retired from active farm life he moved to Audubon, where his death occurred. Warren C. and Rachel (Marshall) Rice were the parents of four children: Mrs. Emma R. Moore, of Omaha, Nebraska; Frank M., who is clerk of the courts of Audubon county; Edward C., the immediate subject of this review, and Millie, who died at the age of five years.

Edward C. Rice was educated in the schools of Port Byron, Illinois, and came to Audubon in the fall of 1881. He purchased a tract of eighty acres of land in section 8, Greeley township, for which he paid seven dollars an acre. This land was raw prairie and had never been touched by a plow. Mr. Rice hauled corn to Exira, which he sold for fifteen cents a bushel, and during a part of the time when this corn, the product of his first farm, was being hauled to Exira, the snow was up to the bottom of the wagon bed. During this period, Mr. Rice boarded with his brother, who lived about a half-mile away. He farmed here for five years, and then for the following five years, he clerked in a grocery store in Audubon. Subsequently, he worked for a pioneer clothing merchant of Audubon, for twelve months,

after which he engaged in the mercantile business at Alta, Iowa, for four years. On December 3, 1901, Mr. Rice took charge of the Farmers Exchange Bank, owned by Messrs. Leet and Boysen. After Mr. Leet's death, the partners became Lida L. and Helen C. Leet.

The Farmers Savings Bank, of Gray, Iowa, of which Mr. Rice is the cashier, was first established in 1892. It was founded by George P. Wiley, as the branch bank of Remsen, Iowa. Mr. Wiley was succeeded by Mr. Greglow, of Remsen, Iowa, and later by Leet and Boysen, and then by Lida and Helen Leet. In 1912 it was organized as the Farmers Savings Bank, and Mr. Rice took a very active part in the organization of this bank.

Edward C. Rice was twice married, his first marriage occurring in February, 1883, to Hattie E. Mulhollen, who died in January, 1887. Mr. Rice was afterwards married, on July 10, 1896, and to his second marriage two children were born, Homer and Raymond, twins, born July 12, 1901.

Mr. Rice is a Republican, but his many business interests do not permit of his taking a very active part in political matters. Fraternaly, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias, at Audubon, and takes an active interest in the welfare of this organization.

BENTON L. DARNOLD.

The gentleman whose name forms the caption of this sketch belongs to that class of men who wins life's battles by sheer force of personality and determination, coupled with soundness of judgment and keen discrimination. In whatever Mr. Darnold has undertaken, he has shown himself to be a man of ability and honor, always ready to lend his aid in promoting principles affecting the public good, having ably and conscientiously served the city of Audubon as marshal and water commissioner, while in other phases of social and political life, he has so conducted himself as to win the unqualified endorsement and support of his neighbors and fellow townsmen.

Benton L. Darnold was born on January 3, 1843, in Madison county, Virginia. He is the son of William and Lucinda (Quinn) Darnold, natives of old Virginia. William Darnold was born in 1808 and was a son of William Wallace Darnold, also a native of Virginia. Lucinda Quinn, who married William Darnold, was of Scotch-Irish parentage and was born in 1812. The family came to Iowa in 1858, driving overland, and located in Wapello, Louisa county, Iowa, where they settled on a farm and were among

the pioneer settlers. In 1878 they went to Kansas with a son and the father died in that state; the wife dying in 1879, soon after the death of her husband. They reared a family of twelve children, Joseph A., who is a contractor in Kansas City; Richard, who is a government contractor in Washington; Donald, who lives at Villisca, Iowa; John H., who also lives at Villisca; Edward, deceased; Mrs. Sarah Lookingbill, who lives in Mediapolis, Des Moines county, Iowa; two, who died in infancy; Benton L., the subject of this sketch, and Thomas W., who was a member of the Eighth Iowa Cavalry and later enlisted in the regular army under General Miles, and is located in the West.

Benton L. Darnold was thirteen years of age when his family came to Iowa, where he assisted his father on the home farm. He enlisted when nineteen years old at Burlington on January 23, 1862, in Company K, Second Iowa Cavalry, and served until the end of the war, when he was mustered out at Salem, Alabama. He was engaged in the battles of Black River, Iuka Springs, Shiloh, Nashville and West Point. He was also in many minor engagements and was wounded at Farmington, Mississippi, in a charge, his right wrist being struck by a bullet which plowed through the flesh to the shoulder. A brother, Thomas N., was taken prisoner and kept in Andersonville for a short time.

At the close of the war, Mr. Darnold operated an engine and a saw-mill for two years. He then farmed for about ten years and came to Audubon county in 1875. He owned a farm in Hamlin township, but moved to Audubon in 1883 and operated a grain elevator for three years. Since 1886 he has been city marshal and street commissioner and for several years has been water commissioner of Audubon.

Mr. Darnold was married in 1866 to Martha Barton, who was the daughter of Josiah Barton, and was born in North Carolina in 1841 and died in October, 1912. She was left an orphan early in life and was adopted by a Mr. Sheets, who brought her to Iowa. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Darnold, Nettie, the wife of Charles Lefoy, of Melville township, Audubon county, who has four children; Sarah, the wife of Louis Jones, of Audubon; Mrs. Lottie Ralph, of Audubon; Mrs. Elsie May Mertz, of Sioux City; Mrs. Daisy Carper, of Audubon; William Hutton and Anna, both deceased.

Benton L. Darnold is a Republican and has been affiliated to this party during his entire life. He is a member of Allison Post, No. 34, Grand Army of the Republic. All of the members of the Darnold family are conscientious and devout members of the Baptist church.

JAMES M. CARLSON.

It is not an easy task to describe adequately the career of a man who has led an eminently active and busy life, and who has attained a position of relative distinction in the community with which his interests are allied. Biography, however, finds its most perfect justification in tracing and recording the facts of such a life history. It is, therefore, with a full appreciation of what is demanded, and with the painstaking scrutiny which must be accorded each statement, and yet with a feeling of satisfaction, that the details of the career of James M. Carlson, a well-known banker of Exira, are here briefly set forth.

James M. Carlson, the cashier of the First National Bank, of Exira, Iowa, was born on December 17, 1884, in Denmark, the son of Hans P. and Oline (Petersen) Carlson, both of whom were born in Denmark, the former in 1839, and the latter in 1851. Hans P. Carlson died in 1904. He was a farmer in Denmark and came to America in 1892. He located near Elkhorn, Iowa, where he rented a farm for ten years. He then moved to a farm near Atlantic, Iowa, where he lived for a short time, after which he moved to Shelby county, Iowa, where he lived until his death.

Hans P. and Oline (Petersen) Carlson were the parents of five children: Chris, deceased, was married to Lena Petersen, who is also deceased; Nels, unmarried, lives in Canada; Anna, the wife of Walter E. Potts; James M., the immediate subject of this sketch; Alfred, unmarried, lives at home with his mother at Marne, Iowa.

James M. Carlson received his education in the public schools of Shelby county, Iowa, and after leaving his home township schools, he took a course at the Capital City Commercial College, at Des Moines, Iowa, and was graduated from this institution with the class of 1904. He then took a law course in the Lincoln-Jefferson University at Hammond, Indiana, and from this institution, which is a correspondence school, he received the degree of Bachelor of Laws. After completing his law course, Mr. Carlson engaged in the banking business at Marne Savings Bank, at Marne, Iowa, where he remained for five years, and then located in California for one year. He came to Exira and was elected cashier of the First National Bank in 1911.

Mr. Carlson was married in 1912 to Ethel Musselman, the daughter of Millard and Dora (Cumpston) Musselman, and to this union one child, Marjorie, has been born. Mrs. Carlson was born in Warren county, Iowa, and her parents were also natives of this state. They were the parents of six children, Carrie, William, Ethel, John, Sele and Vera. Mrs. Carlson is a

member of the Primitive Baptist church, of which the family are regular attendants.

Mr. Carlson is a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to the Blue Lodge No. 342, at Exira, and is also a member of the Mystic Shrine at Des Moines. James M. Carlson is a Republican, and is at the present time a member of the Exira city council, and has made a splendid record in this office. Mr. Carlson has been very successful as a banker, and much of the success of the First National Bank, of Exira, Iowa, is partially due to his efforts. He is popular with the patrons of the bank and with the officers and directors of the institution as well. Mr. and Mrs. Carlson are popular socially in Exira, and well known to a large number of people.

REV. JENS PETER CHRISTIANSEN.

The life of the minister of the gospel, with its requirements for personal sacrifice, does not attract the average man. To the lay mind, it is sometimes incomprehensible that a man should voluntarily give up much of his personal freedom in order that he may minister to the spiritual, physical or material welfare of those in need of him. Although the minister's chief concern is for the spiritual uplift of the community which he serves, his duties and his thought are not nowadays limited to this sphere of life. The modern minister must constantly respond to demands of which his predecessors knew nothing. Not only must he be always ready with advice and encouragement for those who seem worsted in life's battle, but he must also render financial assistance to many causes and individuals. Otherwise, he would, no doubt, lose his influence as a preacher. Not a calling, indeed, to appeal to any but the unselfish and altruistic. But here and there we find men and women who have discovered that happiness for them lies along this way, and to such, ministry is not a sacrifice, but a joy. A stranger in Audubon county would not have to remain here long to hear the name of Rev. Jens Peter Christiansen, pastor of the Danish Lutheran Church, in the town of Audubon. Reverend Christiansen is a native of Denmark, having been born there on November 17, 1876, in a town called Ruds-Vedby.

Rev. Jens Peter Christiansen is the son of Nels and Anna Metta (Fredricksen) Christiansen, both natives of Denmark, the father born in Jerslev, the mother in Kallenborg. The father was engaged in farming both in Denmark and in this country, he having come here in 1893, settling in Win-



J. P. Christiansen

throp, Iowa, where he bought a farm, retiring from active labor some years before his death, which occurred in August, 1912. Upon retiring from the farm, Nels Christiansen moved to Cedar Falls, Iowa, where his widow still resides. Both were stanch Christians and energetic workers in the Lutheran church. They were the parents of the following children: Christian Valdemar, a farmer living in Cedar Falls; Johannes Christiansen, a machinist in Philadelphia; Laurits Christiansen, who is also a machinist, but who lives in Kansas City, Missouri; Martin Christiansen, who is employed by the Gas and Electric Light Company at Cedar Falls, and Rev. Peter Christiansen, the subject of this sketch.

Jens Peter Christiansen was graduated from the schools of Denmark, and upon coming to the United States attended Trinity Seminary at Blair, Nebraska, from 1899 until 1906, in which latter year he was graduated. His first charge was in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he remained from 1906 until 1909, coming thence, in the latter year, to this county, in response to a call from the Danish Lutheran congregation at Audubon, and has lived ever since in that city, serving very acceptably as pastor of the Danish Lutheran church.

On June 6, 1906, the year of his graduation, Rev. J. P. Christiansen was married to Nora Jensen, who was born in Kundby, Denmark, the daughter of Jens and Marie (Olsen) Jensen, who came to America in 1873, locating at Cedar Falls, Iowa, where Jens Jensen died on May 4, 1915, his wife having preceded him to the grave many years, her death having occurred on June 30, 1898. Mrs. Christiansen is the sixth child born to her parents, the others being: Jens S., who lives in Kansas; Maria, deceased; Christine, of Cedar Falls; Line J., also of Cedar Falls; Christian J., of Waterloo, Iowa; a daughter, Ida, who is now dead, and Alfred J., of Sioux City, Iowa.

It is only natural that a man of Reverend Christiansen's profession should be well educated. But it does not follow that he, as a minister, should keep abreast with the times, as this is not an invariable rule. It is true, however, in the present case, for one element of Mr. Christiansen's marked success in the ministry is his interest in modern thought and modern activities.

To Rev. J. P. and Nora (Jensen) Christiansen three children have been born: Rudolf Paulus, born on June 29, 1907; Phillip Wilhelm, July 17, 1909, and Noomi Damaris, July 9, 1912.

Since their residence in Audubon, the Reverend and Mrs. Christiansen have become important factors in the life of the town in which they live. Not only as a minister does the former find and fill his place in the com-

munity, but as a man he is respected and admired. Nor is this respect and admiration limited to the congregation to which he ministers, for his range of influence extends beyond. As a minister's wife, conscious of the high calling of her husband, Mrs. Christiansen has seconded all of her husband's efforts in building up strong Christian manhood and womanhood in this community, and both would be greatly missed should they leave Audubon.

PETER MATHISEN.

Not only those whose lives are spent in the teeming cities, and in the world's centers of industry and commerce, are worthy of classification among earth's great and useful, but he who has been a good husband, a loving father, a true neighbor and a loyal citizen is great as a man, even though his praises have not been sung in press and pulpit. Every man who has held public office and who is honest, has given to his community time, attention and service which the salary paid him cannot cover. Many are the demands made upon such a one, and yet would not come to him as a private citizen or business man. When, therefore, it is said of a man that he has filled any office with credit, this may be taken to mean that he has given the best that was in him for the public good.

Peter Mathisen, ex-supervisor and retired farmer of Audubon, Iowa, is a native of Denmark, having been born there on October 21, 1845, in the province of Schleswig.

His parents, Peter and Christina (Stephensen) Mathisen, also were born and brought up there. The father, a farmer, died when he was sixty years of age, and the mother came to this country in 1877, lived with her children in Sharon township, this county until her death in 1903. Both Mr. and Mrs. Mathisen were members of the Lutheran church. Peter, whose name appears at the head of this brief record, was the eldest. The others were: Catherine, who died in Davenport, Iowa; Carrie, now the wife of Jens Werner of Audubon, Iowa; Sophia, who passed away while the family lived in Davenport; Jorgen, a farmer living in Sharon township, Audubon county, Iowa, and Maria, the youngest daughter, who died in Denmark.

The eldest son, Peter, was ambitious for education, and received his early schooling in Denmark, but he was compelled to leave school for the farm, and as a young man, worked out on a farm. Being ambitious to advance, and while still a young man of twenty-two, he started for America, at first tak-

ing up the occupation he had followed in the old country, this time, in Davenport, Iowa. From 1869 until 1872, he lived in Cass county and worked on the Rock Island railway.

In 1870, he was married to Sophia Sorensen, who was born in Denmark and who came to this country in 1869. In the year 1872, preferring the farm to railroad work, Mr. Mathisen purchased a tract of prairie land belonging to the railway company four miles north of Atlantic, Iowa, and began clearing his forty acres. Four years later he removed to Jackson township, Shelby county, the same state, bought one hundred acres, and made this his home for seven years, living on the farm which he improved. In 1883, Sharon township attracted him, and he became the possessor of a piece of unimproved land, a portion of which was partially improved, and after expending several thousand dollars for improvements, began stock raising. He specialized in a good breed of cattle, Poland China hogs, and draft horses. For the two years following 1896, he lived on a farm which he owned in Leroy township. Audubon became his home in 1900, and it was on the west side of the town that he built his present home. Besides the site on which it is situated, he owns two other lots. A farm which he owns in Cameron township is rented to tenants.

Owing to having held three prominent county offices, Mr. Mathisen is unusually well known, not only in the vicinity of his own home, but in adjoining neighborhoods. For several years, he was trustee of Sharon township, and a school director, and was elected county supervisor in 1891; he served in this latter capacity for three years. An active politician, he was a leader in the Democratic party, and his judgment was relied upon by other politicians. He has been identified all of his life with the Danish Lutheran church. In matters concerning current events, Mr. Mathisen is always well informed, and his interests are not limited to local subjects.

The children born are four in number. The eldest, Christina, is married to Andrew Knudsen of Sharon township, and they live on the old homestead of her father. Their children are Mary, Johanna and Sophia. The second child of Mr. and Mrs. Mathisen died in infancy, and Maria, the next in order of birth passed away while young. Stephen is a farmer in Sharon township. He married Christina Nelsen, and their children are named Anna Marie and Laura.

These are the important facts concerning the life of Peter Mathisen, but one must read between the lines to realize that success and honor among his fellow men did not come without effort and just cause. Those pioneers who have become prosperous, are strong, sturdy characters, undaunted by

conditions which would dismay less stalwart minds, and so when the goal has been reached, and they can cease the more strenuous activities, it should not be forgotten that the way has not always been so easy, nor the conditions of life pleasant. No one more deserves a life free from care, comparatively speaking, than he who has known what it means to work for long hard hours, and to keep at it when the end seemed far away.

LUDWIG F. MILLER.

Ludwig F. Miller, cashier of the Brayton Savings Bank of Brayton, Iowa, is one of the well-known citizens and business men of Audubon county. Engaged in the grain business in this community for many years and at different times in the lumber business, he has many friends in this part of Audubon county, men who know him for his worth as a citizen and for his honorable and upright dealings with the public generally.

Mr. Miller was born on July 27, 1858, in Denmark, the son of M. F. and Maren (Larson) Miller, both natives of Denmark, the father having been a school teacher and having taught school for thirty-eight years. He died in 1878, his wife surviving him many years, passing away in 1912. They had six children: Frederick, Lawrence, Peter, Minnie, Laura and L. F., the subject of this sketch.

It was Mr. Miller's good fortune to have the opportunity in his native land, to obtain a better education than most of his fellow countrymen who have come to America from that country. After finishing the course given in the public schools, he attended college and upon leaving college, spent eighteen months in the Danish army.

Coming to America in 1882, L. F. Miller located at Brayton, Iowa, where he worked as a farm hand for two years. Subsequently, he took a position with the D. W. Powers Lumber Company, which he held for three years. In the meantime, he also bought grain and operated an elevator for two years. He then worked for the Green Bay Lumber Company for one and a half years and finally engaged in the grain business himself under the firm name of Worthing & Miller. For ten years Mr. Miller was engaged in the grain business at Brayton, but sold out to the Rothchild Grain Company and worked for this company for two years at Brayton and also two years at Laura, Iowa.

In 1901 Mr. Miller became engaged in the banking business at Brayton,

Iowa, in the bank owned by Delehoyde & Van Gorder and served as assistant cashier of this bank until 1913, when it became a state bank and he was elected cashier. The Brayton Savings Bank has had a very satisfactory growth, and no small part of its prosperity is due to the zeal, wisdom and energy of its cashier.

On May 29, 1882, Mr. Miller was married to Olena Hansen, the daughter of Hans and Mary Ann (Rasmussen) Hansen. Of the children born to this marriage, six are now living: Raymond, Harry, Einer, Minnie, Agnes and Edna. Raymond married Ina Bisom and has three children, Lucile, Cosetta and Carl L.; Minnie married Reed Walker and has one child, John Dale. The remainder of the children are single and live at home. Mrs. Miller is a native of Denmark, as were her parents, and she came to America in 1882, the year she was married to Mr. Miller. Her parents lived and died in their native land. They had three children: Olena, Jens R. and Karen Marie.

Fraternally, Mr. Miller is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which he is now a past grand. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America at Brayton. In politics, he has always been identified with the Republican party since coming to this country. As a public-spirited citizen, Mr. Miller is well known in this section of Audubon county, not only for his wide and diversified career in business but for his interest and support of public movements. He is very popular among the people of this community, being affable and agreeable, honorable and straightforward in all the relations of life.

JOHN M. DIMICK.

John M. Dimick is a well-known cattle buyer and feeder of Exira, Iowa, who, after farming with his father for ten years, purchased the homestead farm in Audubon county and began life for himself. Mr. Dimick began life with eighty acres of land, for which he paid twenty-two and one-half dollars an acre. Now, he is perhaps the most extensive stock raiser in Audubon county. He has increased his land holdings from eighty to five hundred and thirty-five acres and raises on an average five hundred head of live stock every year. He buys between twenty-five and thirty thousand bushels of corn and feeds from fifteen to twenty carloads of cattle, and from five hundred to six hundred head of hogs each year. The immensity of these opera-

tions is immediately apparent to any one who is at all familiar with farming. Mr. Dimick has the reputation of feeding prime cattle, which the Chicago buyers are always anxious to get, and for which they are always willing to pay top prices. He deserves much credit for the great progress he has made.

John M. Dimick was born in Johnson county, Iowa, February 27, 1869, and is a son of John J. and Fannie (Mitchell) Dimick, both of whom were natives of Erie county, New York. John J. Dimick was born January 24, 1825, and his wife, who, before her marriage, was Fannie Mitchell, was born March 31, 1837. John J. Dimick grew to manhood in Erie county, New York, and there lived upon a farm. Before his marriage he made a trip to California during the historic gold-strike of 1849-50. He was fairly successful in his quest for fortune and after remaining in California for three years he returned to Wisconsin, where he remained until 1858, when he came to Johnson county, Iowa. While living in Wisconsin he conducted a hotel. After coming to Johnson county, Iowa, he first purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Johnson county. Subsequently, he increased his holdings by one-half. After being well started in farming, he engaged in the lumber and stock business, in which line he remained for five years, at the expiration of which time he sold out and came to Audubon county, Iowa, in March, 1881, locating four miles northwest of Exira. Here he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land and was engaged in general farming until 1901, when he moved to Exira and took up cattle buying, following this business until his death, January 1, 1910. His wife had died more than a quarter of a century previously, March 1, 1879.

John J. and Fannie (Mitchell) Dimick were the parents of ten children, eight of whom are now living, and in the order of birth were as follow: George G., Elvira, Horace, Mary, Calvin I., John M., Julia, Jesse, Ella and one who died in infancy. George G. is living on the old home farm in Hamlin township owned by John M. Dimick; Elvira is living in Syracuse, New York; Horace is deceased; Mary is the wife of Edward Dryden, a farmer of Hamlin township; Calvin I. lives in Exira township; Julia is the wife of Walkup M. Crees, of Hamlin township; Jesse and Ella live at Boone, Iowa.

John M. Dimick entered the public schools of Johnson county, Iowa, and was enabled to secure a good education, which has been of great assistance to him in all of the business of his life. He was married on July 20, 1889, to Maretta Cook, the daughter of Charles Cook, and to this union three children were born, Clyde J., Ellowene and Frank. Clyde is manager of the Tabor Lumber Company, of Winfield, Iowa, and is married to Pearl Sewel of Henry county, Iowa; he has built a fine residence at Winfield at a cost of

three thousand dollars; Ellowene is in attendance at Ames University and Frank is also a student at Ames University.

Mr. Dimmick has always been more or less active in Republican politics, and has served in several offices. He has served as trustee of Hamlin township for six years, discharging the duties of this office in a very satisfactory manner to his fellow citizens. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Maccabees. Mr. Dimick is not a member of any church, but his wife holds membership in the Congregational church, in which she takes an active interest, and of which the family are regular attendants.

JOHN SMITH DENNIS.

Many elements enter into the growth of a community, or into the development of a small community into a larger one. A city does not just happen; it exists because certain conditions have brought it into being. The majority of cities and towns are located largely according to the adaptation of natural resources and the population, an instance of this being found in the fact that many towns have grown up around a mill. Assuming this to be true, there are other causes for the growth of cities and towns, and these are found in the efficiency, enterprise and courage of its business men. For unless there are unusual and overwhelming natural advantages, no community will thrive, unless its business men are far-sighted, energetic and progressive. In Audubon, Iowa, there are a number of such men, none of whom is better known than John Smith Dennis, who was born on March 17, 1848 in Oberlin, Ohio. The life of Mr. Dennis has been more varied than that of the average man. He was a dutiful son, and for a time was a soldier, and later a railroad employee and, finally, a business man and member of various organizations, and worthy, therefore, of record in a volume such as the present one.

John Smith Dennis is the son of John and Lucy (Smith) Dennis. The paternal grandfather was John Dennis, the first member of this family to come to America from Ireland. He and his wife located on a farm in New Brunswick, where they passed the remainder of their lives. Their children were two in number: John, father of the subject of this biographical notice, and a daughter who died in a fire on board a Mississippi river packet boat. The son studied dentistry in Oberlin, Ohio, and practiced there until 1856, when he went to live in Muscotine, Iowa. After a residence of five years in

Muscotine, he removed to Irontown, Missouri, where he remained for one year. Hearing of Cincinnati as a growing commercial center, he started there to seek a suitable location when he was stricken with ship fever, and died on the boat. He had been a Democrat, a member of the Odd Fellows lodge, and a Catholic. His wife was Lucy Smith, a daughter of Rev. Henry Smith of New York state, her father being a Presbyterian minister.

The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Dennis were nine in number. The eldest daughter, Tillie, is deceased. The first-born son, Henry Page, enlisted in the army in 1861, and served until 1865. He distinguished himself by being a member of Company A, Yates Sharp-shooters, later enlisting in another company. At the close of the war, he went to work on the Missouri Pacific railroad, first as conductor, and afterwards as yard-master at Kansas City. His death in 1870 was due to an accident. While an employe of the railroad, he was caught in a "frog," and his foot so badly crushed that it resulted in his death. John was the third child born in this family. Then came Albert, now a farmer in Hutchinson, Kansas, and Bell, widow of Sidney Whittmore of Anamossa, Iowa. Bird, the next daughter, married Charles Damon of Mason City, Iowa. Lucy passed away in Chicago, and two sons died while young. The mother passed away in February, 1898, at the age of seventy-four.

Because of the death of his father, John had little opportunity for obtaining the education which he desired. After his father's death in 1859, when the boy was only eleven years old, he continued to live at home with his mother, until his enlistment on April 10, 1864. Although he was mustered in at Quincy, Illinois, he enlisted from La Salle county in Company K, One Hundred and Thirty-eighth Regiment. The company were sent first to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and later to Springfield, Illinois, but they rebelled, and wanted to go to the front, but were sent to St. Louis barracks. However, they were sent out for a distance of about fifty miles on the Iron Mountain railroad to guard a bridge. When the company was mustered out later at Springfield, Illinois, John Dennis obtained employment as a brakeman on the Rock Island railroad, and later worked for the Missouri Pacific. He returned to the employ of the Rock Island railroad where he worked until 1869, when he went to Cheyenne, Wyoming, to work for the Union Pacific railroad. He remained with them only a short time, going back to his former employers of the Rock Island road, his headquarters then being Stuart, Iowa. In 1885, he took up residence in Audubon, Iowa, and was conductor between there and Atlantic, the same state. After serving in this capacity for three years, he bought out a dray line and an ice business, and since that time, has

been engaged in these enterprises, together with his interests as owner of a confectionery and cigar store.

Mr. Dennis became the husband of Nettie J. Dunham, of Benton county, Iowa, on April 2, 1874. Mrs. Dennis, who was born on September 20, 1851, was the daughter of John Addison and Lucinda (Birdsell) Dunham, of New York state. Both were natives of that state, and came of Quaker stock, arriving in Benton county in the pioneer days of 1850. Besides owning and running a farm, Mr. Dunham kept a hotel in Iowa City, called the "half-way house." Later, they lived in Merango, and then made their home successfully in Grinnell, Newton, Desota, Casey, Avoca and Stuart. In these vicinities, they were the pioneer hotel people of those days. Their children were Ella, widow of John Ripp of Canyon City, Colorado, and Mrs. Dennis. Mr. Dunham died in 1898, in Canyon City, Colorado, his wife having died in 1873 while they lived in Stuart, Iowa.

Since 1913, Mr. Dennis has been engaged principally in looking after his confectionery and cigar store, in which he is ably assisted by his son Will, and daughter, Mattie, who is the youngest child born to Mr. and Mrs. Dennis.

The other children are: Charles H., of Carroll, Iowa, cashier for the Chicago & Northwestern railroad; Robert Page, a carpenter in Los Angeles, California; John, the husband of Abbie Prepley, and who was drowned July 5, 1913; Lucy, who died while single; George, agent for the Great Northern railroad at Sea Side, Oregon; Frank B. who lives at home, and who manages the transfer and ice business which his father started; Ella, now Mrs. George Cummings of Atlantic, Iowa.

Evidence of the trustworthiness of the subject of this sketch, as an employee, is shown by the fact that for twenty-five years, he has been on the pay-roll of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad in the express and mail department.

Mr. Dennis is a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic at Audubon, Iowa; a Mason, blue lodge, chapter and commandery; a charter member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and a strong Republican. Mrs. Dennis is, like her husband, interested in patriotic societies, and has been for years an active worker in the Relief Corps No. 38.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Dennis are popular people, which accounts for their large circle of friends and acquaintances. Both are remarkably well preserved, this being due perhaps to the fact that their interests in life have been varied. They have been among those whose energy and activity along practical lines have helped materially to build up the substantial growth of the town in which they have made their home.

SOREN C. PEDERSEN.

Of the well-known bankers and prominent business men of Audubon county, Iowa, Soren C. Pedersen, the president of the Kimballton-Danish Savings Bank, of Kimballton, Iowa, must not be overlooked. Mr. Pedersen has been one of the influential factors in the commercial and financial development of this part of Audubon county, and associated with him in the active management of the bank, is his brother, Math Nissager, and his son, Alfred M., the former of whom is cashier and the latter is assistant cashier. John Pedersen is vice-president of the bank, which has a capital of twenty thousand dollars. Since the organization of the bank in 1907, it has enjoyed a wonderful growth and now has a substantial patronage, not only from the business men of Kimballton and community, but from many different parts of Audubon county.

Soren C. Pedersen, the president of this institution, was born in November, 1868, at Mariager, Denmark, and came to America in 1892, locating at Ruskin, Nebraska, where he farmed for about seven years. In 1899 he located at Elk Horn, where he engaged in the hardware and implement business. Previously, in 1892 he had organized and started the Elk Horn Bank, of which he is the cashier and John Pedersen is the president. Since 1907 Mr. Pedersen has divided his time between the bank at Elk Horn and the bank at Kimballton, and he is also treasurer of the Elk Horn & Kimballton Lumber Company and of the Marne and Elk Horn Telephone Company. As president of the Atlantic Northern Railroad Company, he has had much to do with the development of this section. He is interested in the Danish Lutheran College at Elk Horn, and a director in the Dana College at Blair, Nebraska.

Mr. Pedersen's wife, who bore him four children, died on March 26, 1914, at the age of thirty-eight. She was a good woman of broad and intelligent sympathies and one who had been of great assistance to her husband in his battle for success. Of their children, Alfred M., born December 8, 1894, at Elk Horn, Iowa, was educated at Elk Horn and at Dana College at Blair, Nebraska; he is now assistant cashier of the Kimballton-Danish Savings Bank, which position he has occupied since October, 1914; Edith A., Ejnar and Sigurd, the other three children, are all at home.

Mr. Pedersen's brother, Math Nissager, is somewhat older than Soren C., having been born on November 30, 1861, at Mariager, Denmark. The parents of these two well-known business men of Audubon county were Math and Anna (Peterson) Moller, who were natives of Denmark. The

father was a carpenter and farmer and came to America in 1892, settling first at Ruskin, Nebraska, where he was a farmer for thirteen years. He then located at Elkhorn, Iowa, and later returned to his native land, remaining for thirteen years. Not long after his return to this country, he passed away quietly at Elkhorn in June, 1911. His wife, the mother of Math and Soren C., is still living. They had one other child, the second born, Mrs. Mary Miller, who is the wife of Jerry Miller, of Elk Horn.

Math Nissager was married November 23, 1891, to Anna Jensen, of Skive, Denmark. They have had two children: Esther Anna, of Des Moines; and Freda D., of Ames, Iowa.

Ever since coming to America, Soren C. Pedersen and Math Nissager have been associated together in business. That they have prospered exceedingly in their adopted country goes without saying. In a way it seems that everything to which they have turned their hands has resulted favorably and today they are among the best known business men of Audubon county.

WILLIAM H. HOYMAN.

The life of the scholarly or professional man seldom exhibits any of those striking incidents that seize upon the public feeling and attract attention to himself, but when such a man has so impressed his individuality upon his fellow men as to gain their confidence, and through an expression of that confidence be elevated to an important public position, he becomes a conspicuous figure of the body politic. The subject of this review is one of the scholarly and able men who have made striking successes in their work as educators. He has succeeded as an instructor and executive, and has kept abreast of the times in educational matters to such an extent that he has raised the schools of Exira, this county, to a high and definite standard of efficiency.

William H. Hoyman, now superintendent of the Exira public schools, was born on November 27, 1883, at Clarence, Cedar county, Iowa, son of Henry S. and Mary (Maley) Hoyman, the former a native of Holmes county, Ohio, born in 1848, the latter of Warren county, Illinois, born in 1853. Henry S. Hoyman was the son of John Hoyman, born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, who migrated to Holmes county, Ohio, where Henry was born. John Hoyman left the Buckeye state and moved to Iowa in the early fifties, traveling on foot the greater part of the distance; walking

to Fort Dodge and thence to Des Moines while looking over the country and seeking a location. He had saved about three thousand dollars, and this sum he invested in Cedar county land, on which tract he erected his home and established the nucleus of a famous stock farm which the son, Henry S. Hoyman, developed into what is now widely known as "Stanwood Stock Farm." This fine farm consists of three hundred and sixty acres and is noted for its fine thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle, Percheron horses, and Duroc-Jersey swine. Not long ago, Henry S. Hoyman disposed of this farm and his live stock and retired to a residence in the town of Stanwood, Cedar county. It was in Stanwood that Henry S. Hoyman was married, his wife having moved from Warren county, Illinois, to Cedar county, Iowa, with her parents, S. H. Maley and wife, in the early sixties. S. H. Maley platted the town of Stanwood in the fall of 1869, and it is a matter of note that Henry S. Hoyman hauled the first load of stone used in the building of that now thriving little city.

To Henry S. and Mary (Maley) Hoyman were born eleven children as follow: C. E., a farmer living in Stanwood, Iowa; Mrs. Mary Davidson, also of Stanwood; F. S., a missionary at the head of the United Presbyterian missions in Egypt; Mrs. Joseph O'Brien, of North English, Iowa; Dr. H. J., of St. Joseph, Missouri; Mrs. Henry A. Warmuth, wife of Doctor Warmuth, of Stanwood; Prof. William H., of Exira, this county; Mrs. H. H. Hamilton, of Stanwood, and Avis, a teacher in the Tipton, Iowa, public schools.

William H. Hoyman received his elementary education in the public schools of his native locality and studied for four years in Monmouth College. In preparation for undertaking the profession of teaching, he completed his education in the Iowa State Teachers' College, at Cedar Falls, from which he was graduated in 1909, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, following which he pursued post-graduate work in the Chicago University and began teaching in the fall of 1909, for two years serving as superintendent of the public schools at Clarksville, Iowa. In the fall of 1911 Professor Hoyman was called to take charge of the Exira public schools and has been very successful in the performance of his duties as superintendent of that excellent educational plant. He has placed the schools in the front rank of the public schools in the county and his administration has been marked by progress, harmony among pupils and patrons, and the high class of the student work being done in the schools.

In August, 1913, Prof. W. H. Hoyman was married to Deana Merrick, daughter of H. N. Merrick of Floyd county, Iowa. Professor and Mrs. Hoyman are members of the United Presbyterian church and are warmly

interested in all good works hereabout. Professor Hoyman is independent in his political views, casting his ballot for the men who seem to be best fitted to serve the people. This successful educator comes of an intellectual family, every child in the Hoyman family of nine members who grew to manhood or womanhood was educated in the high school. Four of the sons are college graduates and three daughters of the family were college students.

CHARLES TUNMANN.

The best title one can establish to the high and generous esteem of an intelligent community is a protracted and honorable residence therein. Charles Tunmann, one of the best-known and most highly respected farmers of Audubon county, now living retired, has resided in this locality most of his life. His career has been commendable in every respect and well deserves to be recorded in the pages of such a work as the one in hand. He has always been a man of well-defined purpose and has never failed to carry to successful completion any work or enterprise to which he has addressed himself. Knowing that Audubon county was destined to take high rank among the rich and productive localities of the state, Mr. Tunmann applied himself very closely to his work and waited for the future to bring its reward, with the result that today he is one of the substantial citizens and farmers of Audubon county.

Charles Tunmann was born in Germany on July 7, 1841, the son of Fred and Millie (Markvardt) Tunmann, natives of that country, the former of whom, now deceased, was a laborer on a big estate in Germany. Charles Tunmann was married in 1865 and worked as a teamster on an estate. He saved his money and in 1869, with his wife and two small sons, came to America, landing in New York City on October 1, of that year, having left Germany on September 16. He immediately came to this state and located in Iowa county, where he worked as a farm laborer for two years, at the end of which time he rented a farm on which he lived for seven years, later purchasing one hundred and twenty acres, which he improved and sold back to its former owner. After again living on rented land for two years, he came to Audubon county and purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres of raw prairie land at nine dollars an acre. On this farm Mr. Tunmann built a small house sixteen by twenty-two feet, which in 1907 he replaced by a fine house, twenty-eight by twenty-two feet. Mr. Tunmann owned two hundred

and forty acres at the time of his retirement, of which he gave eighty acres to his son and still owns one hundred and sixty acres in section 27. Mr. Tunmann retired to Audubon in May, 1914, after having spent thirty years on the farm.

On November 15, 1865, Charles Tunmann was married to Fredericka Keakbush, who was born in Germany on September 18, 1838, the daughter of John Keakbush, to which union five children have been born, namely: William, born on September 1, 1866, who lives on the home farm; Charles, October 18, 1868; Minnie, June 19, 1871, who married Fred Sundberg and has four children, Carl, May, Mildred and an infant; Mary, August 2, 1877, died on November 12, 1910, and John, December 12, 1878, who married Mary Law and lives in Melville township.

Charles Tunmann is a Republican and for years has been more or less active in the councils of his party. For twelve years he was trustee of Melville township and for ten years served as a school director. He also served as road supervisor for many years.

Although Mr. and Mrs. Tunmann were reared in the Lutheran faith, they and their family attend the Methodist Episcopal church and are prominent in the work of this church and Sunday school. Few men in this county are more highly respected than Charles Tunmann and few men, within the same length of time, have accomplished more.

JENS PETER HYEN.

The occupation of farming, to which the major part of the active life of Jens Peter Hyen has been devoted, is the oldest pursuit for a livelihood known to mankind, and the one in which he will ever be most independent. Mr. Hyen has been connected with the general growth of Audubon county for many years, although he is a native of the little kingdom of Denmark. He is a well-known and popular citizen of Hamlin township, Audubon county, Iowa. While primarily attending to his agricultural interests, his life has been somewhat devoted to his fellow men, and he has been untiring in his efforts to inspire a proper respect for law and order. He has been ready at all times to uplift humanity along civic and social lines.

Jens Peter Hyen, whose name in his native country was Jens P. Petersen, was born September 18, 1871, in the part of Denmark known as Vensysel, Jylland. He is a son of Peter and Mary Ann (Nelsen) Paulsen, who were born at the same place where Jens Peter, their son, was born. The

father was a laborer and he and his wife were the parents of eight children, of whom Jens Peter was the fifth.

Jens Peter Hyen received a good education, attending school during the week days in the winter and during the summer he herded cattle. He took up farm work later in life and was able to finish his education. He followed farming until he came to America, with the exception of one year which he was compelled to spend in the army. In 1903 Jens Peter Hyen came to the United States, bringing his family with him. He landed at Quebec, Canada, first, and came from Quebec to Audubon county, Iowa. He first worked by the month from June 20, 1903, when he arrived in Audubon county, to October of that year. After this he purchased a milk route and hauled milk to a creamery for two and one-half years. In the meantime he purchased some calves and pigs and rented a small farm. He received his first two pigs for two days work in helping a man put up hay. The pigs were small and sickly and he thought they would die. That winter Mr. Hyen killed one for his meat and the other one he kept for a brood sow, and in the next spring he had eight pigs from this sow. Mr. Hyen rented land only two years and then purchased a hundred and twenty acres of land in 1908. This land was located in Hamlin township, and he was compelled to pay a hundred dollars down as a first payment. One year later he bought forty acres more, and now has a hundred and sixty acres. When Mr. Hyen left Denmark he had only a hundred dollars in money. He has lived here for twelve years and done more in that period than most men do in forty years.

On November 8, 1898, Mr. Hyen was married in Denmark to Anna Kattrina Madsen, who was born on September 13, 1879, in Himmerland, Denmark. She is the daughter of Ole and Susanna Mary (Fredricksen) Madsen, who were also born in the same place as their daughter, whose father was a farmer and shoemaker by trade.

Mr. and Mrs. Jens Peter Hyen are the parents of eight children, seven of whom are living. Four of the children were born in Denmark. They are as follow: Magner, born on October 20, 1899; Olga, September 27, 1901; Mary, September 26, 1902; Pauline, December 25, 1903, died in infancy; Elmer, May 4, 1905; Violet, April 12, 1907; Ester, June 12, 1909; Nels P., October 4, 1912; Mamie, February 4, 1915. All of the children live at home with their parents.

Mr. Hyen assisted in the organization of the Farmers Savings Bank at Hamlin and is one of the stockholders of this bank. He is also a stockholder in the West Hamlin Creamery Company. Mr. Hyen does general

farming and stock raising. He owns a gas engine with which he shells his corn, saws wood, grinds feed, etc. He also has an interest in the Elkhorn Telephone Company.

Mr. Hyne is a Democrat, though he has never been active in political affairs and has never held office. The family are all members of the Danish Lutheran church.

JACOB F. WAHLERT.

Jacob F. Wahlert, for many years a farmer in Greeley township, and one of the prosperous and highly-respected citizens of Audubon county, was born on July 4, 1846, in Schleswig, Holstein, Germany, the son of John and Arsby (Starmann) Wahlert, natives of the same place. The father was a laborer in the old country, who came to the United States some ten years after the arrival of his wife, and both spent their last days in the home of their son, Jacob F. They were the parents of nine children, of whom Jacob F. was the fifth child.

Jacob F. Wahlert received but a limited education, his attendance at school having been limited to a few months during the winters until he was about fifteen years, after which he worked out as a farm hand until 1870, in which year he came to the United States. Upon landing at New York City, he proceeded directly to Moline, Rock Island county, Illinois, where his brothers, George and Fred, previously had located. On the day after his arrival in Moline he obtained work on a gravel train on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad, and continued at this work for five or six months, after which he went to work on a farm. During the last five or six years of his residence in Rock Island county he rented land.

In 1881 Jacob F. Wahlert came to Audubon county and purchased two hundred and forty acres of land in section 35, in Greeley township. Land was cheap in those days and Mr. Wahlert paid Mr. Harter, the owner, seven to eight dollars an acre for it. A fourteen by twenty-four foot house and a lean-to-kitchen, ten by twelve feet, was considered very good for those times. About 1902 Mr. Wahlert built a comfortable seven-room house. In addition to this house he also erected a new barn, cribs and hog houses. As he prospered he purchased additional land, the greater part of which he has since disposed of to his children, and now retains but one hundred and sixty acres. Since retiring from active farm work he has rented the remainder of the land to the children.

On December 16, 1874, Jacob F. Wahlert was married in Rock Island



Jacob F. Wahlert

county, Illinois, to Ernestine Fritche, who was born on May 16, 1854, in Atkinson, Rock Island county, Illinois, the daughter of Frederick and Minnie Fritche, natives of Germany, who came from Saxony. To this marriage nine children have been born, seven of whom are living, as follow: Jacob, who married Elizabeth Bartell, daughter of Fred Bartell, and has two children, Mildred and Robert; Anna, who married William Porter, and has five children, George, Gretchen, Floyd, Verla and Verna; Mary, who married Howard Shoesmith and has four children, Stella, Virgil, Marvel and Rollo; Edward, who married Ida Jacobsen and has four children, Florence, Ruby, Marvin and Ramona; Sadie, who married Follie Littlefield and has three children, Gladys, Kenneth and Zola; Ernestine, who married Roy White, and has two children, Alvin and Marvin; Fred, who married Bertha Bartell and has two children living, Carl and Leona, Richard Robert dying in infancy; Franklin, who died when thirteen years old, and another child who died in infancy. On February 18, 1890, the mother of these children passed away, since which time Mr. Wahlert has been making his home with his children.

Jacob F. Wahlert is a Democrat, but has never been active in political affairs and has held no offices. He is a member of the German Lutheran church, of which Mrs. Wahlert also was a member, and their children were reared in that faith. Fraternally, Mr. Wahlert is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. Although his productive period now is past, Mr. Wahlert has been a highly successful farmer and a good citizen, and in all of the years he has lived in Audubon county has been highly respected by his neighbors. Enjoying the satisfaction of having reared a large family to useful and honored lives he may look back upon his career as a distinct and unqualified success and may also rest assured of the warm esteem of his neighbors, all of whom hold him in the highest regard.

P. C. PETERSEN.

One of the most enterprising of the present generation of farmers in Audubon county, Iowa, is P. C. Petersen, of Hamlin township, who has believed from the outset of his career that the wisdom of yesterday is sometimes the folly of today, and that while the methods of our grandfathers in tilling the soil were all right in their day, yet in the twentieth century we are compelled to adopt new methods and farm along different lines. He has

been a close observer of modern methods; is a student at all times of whatever pertains to the farm and farm interests, and has, therefore, met with encouraging success all along the line and, judging from his past record, he is entitled to rank as one of the most representative citizens of Audubon county. He has taken his place among the leading farmers of the county, which is noted for its fine farms and adroit husbandmen.

P. C. Petersen was born on August 3, 1863, in Vensysel, Denmark, and is a son of Jens C. and Elsie (Christensen) Petersen, who were both natives of Denmark, born near the same place as was their son, the subject of this sketch. The father was a farmer and followed that occupation until his death. Jens C. and Elsie (Christensen) Petersen were the parents of nine children, of whom P. C. was the second in order of birth.

P. C. Petersen attended school until about fourteen years of age, when he began working out by the day, doing farm work. When about twenty-three years of age he came to the United States, landing at New York city, and then coming direct to Audubon county, Iowa, where Mr. Petersen had a cousin living. He worked at farm work for one year and then went to Omaha, Nebraska, where he was employed in the roundhouse of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway Company as a wiper. After one year at this employment he decided to return to the farm and removed to Audubon, where he purchased a team and plow and commenced breaking the prairie land, which he continued for several months. His father and the rest of the family had in the meantime come to the United States, and P. C. and his father farmed together for about two years.

Mr. Petersen then rented a farm for one year and then went to Brayton, where he purchased a butcher shop, remaining in this business for three years, and at the expiration of this period, having been married in the meantime, he moved to a farm belonging to his father-in-law and hauled milk to the creamery in Hamlin for four years. He then rented a farm of Calvin Demick for one year, and then purchased eighty acres of land in Hamlin township. He lived on this place for five years, and then rented his father-in-laws's farm, until the latter's death, at which time the farm was inherited by Mr. Petersen's wife.

On March 15, 1893, P. C. Petersen was married in Brayton, Iowa, to Sophia Petersen, who was born July 25, 1872, in Shelby county, Iowa, near Avoca, who was a daughter of Nels P. and Johanna M. (Wolf) Petersen. Mrs. Petersen's parents were born in Schleswig, at that time a part of Denmark, and came to the United States about 1869 or 1879, the father coming first, and they were married in Shelby county, Iowa. In 1893 they came to

Audubon county, where they purchased a farm, and the site of this farm is the site of the present creamery at Hamlin. They lived on this farm for seven years and then sold out and purchased a general mercantile store at Brayton. Nels P. Petersen was in business in Brayton for about nine years and then purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land where his son-in-law, P. C. Petersen, now lives. He lived on this farm until 1907, when he retired from active farm life and moved to Exira, where he lived until his death during the summer of 1914.

Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Petersen are the parents of eight children, Jensene C., Nels C., John M., Johanna M., Jens P., Henry H., Carrie M. and Peter, Jr., all of whom are living at home with their parents.

P. C. Petersen is engaged in general farming and stock raising. He oversees the operations on both his farms, which lie in sections 28 and 22 of Hamlin township. Mr. Petersen is one of Audubon county's most progressive citizens; he is a Republican in politics, but has never desired to hold office. The Petersen family are all members of the Danish Lutheran church, of which they are regular attendants; are active in the work of this congregation, and are liberal contributors to its support.

GEORGE ALBERT MAY, M. D.

George Albert May was born on February 21, 1884, at Russell, Lucas county, Iowa, the son of James Madison and Mary E. (Werts) May, natives of Ohio and Indiana, respectively, of German ancestry. James Madison May, who was a farmer, died in November, 1912. His wife is still living in Lucas county, Iowa.

George Albert May was educated in the Russell schools and spent two years at Simpson College in the undergraduate department. Subsequently, he was graduated from Iowa State University with the degree of Bachelor of Arts and received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1911. After graduating from the medical department of the State University, Doctor May located at Audubon, Iowa; later he took a post graduate course in the New York Post Graduate College, specializing on the eye, ear, nose and throat. He completed this course in the spring of 1913 and after this returned to Audubon, where he has, in a comparatively short time, built up an excellent practice.

Doctor May was married in June, 1913, to Beulah Hayden, of Wall

Lake, Iowa, the daughter of Dr. A. S. Hayden. Doctor and Mrs. May have been the parents of one child, Carl Hayden.

Doctor May is a member of the Audubon County Medical Society, the Iowa State Medical Association and the American Medical Association. Fraternally, Doctor May is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He is a member of the chapter at Audubon, Iowa, his home. Doctor and Mrs. May are members of the Presbyterian church. In politics, Doctor May is independent.

HANS MADSEN.

No better indication of the solidity and permanency of a city's progress is afforded than by a glance at the status of its financial institutions. Banks are the thermometers which register the rise and fall of a city's credit. The stability of the commercial and industrial interests are, to a large extent, dependent upon the policy and the condition of the local banks. The heart of commercial life, they are also the avenues of trade, and the arteries through which flows the financial current of business. Among Audubon county's financial institutions the Landmands National Bank of Kimballton stands out prominently, having an unbroken record of progress since its organization about six years ago. In this brief period the bank has developed into financial strength and secure position among the banking houses of this section of the Hawkeye state, and occupies the largest banking building in the city. The leading figure in the inception of this prominent institution was Hans Madsen, who is now its president, and who is one of the best-known citizens of this section.

Hans Madsen, the president of the Landmands National Bank, of Kimballton, Iowa, was born, August 19, 1865, in Aro, Denmark, the son of C. P. and Kristine (Albertsen) Madsen who were natives of Aro, Denmark, where the former was a ship and mill builder. The father, after coming America in April, 1874, located one-half mile west of Kimballton, Iowa, in Sharon township, and purchased land and was one of the first settlers on Big Indian creek. After clearing the land and making extensive improvements he lived on the farm continuously until his death, July 4, 1914. His good wife, the mother of Hans Madsen, died about six years previously, on January 17, 1908. The late C. P. Madsen was well known and highly respected at the time of his death when he was eighty-three years old. His wife died at the age of seventy-four. A skillful carpenter, he followed his

trade at odd times after coming to Audubon county, did very much toward building up this part of the county. His beloved wife, who was a great church worker, helped to organize the Danish Lutheran church at Elk Horn, Iowa, and was known for miles around. In the early days the families who first came to this community to settle, were accustomed to make their homes with the Madsen family until they could get a start in the world. The late C. P. Madsen and wife started in life in a small way, and during their career made consistent gains on the highway of success. Only once in his life was the late C. P. Madsen a passenger on the railways of this country. He and his wife had six children, of whom Hans, the subject of this sketch, was the third born. Of the others, Albert, the eldest, died in Denmark; M. H. owns the old home place in Sharon township; Maren is the wife of Claus T. Peterson, of Shelby county, Iowa; Albert is deceased; Anna Sophia is the wife of the Rev. J. M. Gregersen, of Solvang, California. Reverend Gregersen is a Danish Lutheran minister and the founder of a Danish colony in that state.

Reared on his father's farm, Hans Madsen attended the common schools of this section, and also the Danish Lutheran sectarian school at Elkhorn, Iowa, in 1885 and 1886. He was a student at Drake University during 1886 and 1887, and then began his active business career as a clerk for Emil Bilharz at Audubon, where he remained for eight months. After this he was employed by M. N. Esbeck until January 12, 1888, when he engaged in the harness business at Shelby and Harlan, Iowa, for a year. In the spring of 1891 he engaged in the harness business at Kimballton, Iowa, and after following this business for eleven years purchased the general store owned by H. Marquesen, of Kimballton. During the first administration of McKinley, and the succeeding period of eight years filled by McKinley and Roosevelt, Mr. Madsen was postmaster. In 1907 he sold the store to Thomas & Larsen, and on October 3, 1907, opened the Landmands Bank with Charles Van Gorder, of Audubon, as president, and himself as cashier. For two years it was a private bank. At the end of this period, Mr. Madsen bought out Mr. Van Gorder, and organized the Landmands National Bank of Kimballton, which opened for business, September 4, 1909. Mr. Madsen is president and his daughter, Alma, is cashier.

The bank has been conducted upon the soundest and most conservative business principles. Its management is characterized by sagacity, energy and ability, coupled with liberality and honorable methods. No other bank has been more closely identified with the many movements that have helped in the growth of Kimballton and its institutions. The Landmands National Bank has excellent facilities for giving the most prompt and satisfactory

service in all departments. Insurance is written at the very lowest rate; foreign and domestic exchange dealt in; steamship tickets sold, and all accounts, large or small, are handled with equal care. Many new customers are constantly opening accounts at this bank, on account of its well-known facilities; its strong financial backing of wealthy stockholders; its central location on the busiest street; its superb system of protection afforded by a strong vault and insurance; its policy of keeping business private, and the highly popular personnel of the banking force. As a bank president, Mr. Madsen is known as one of the most courteous and affable of men, and is constantly on the lookout for the interests of his customers. His daughter, Miss Alma Madsen, who has been the cashier for five years, has proven a painstaking, trustworthy business woman.

On November 27, 1887, Mr. Madsen was married to Johanna Ebbesen, of Jylland, Denmark, who came to America in 1878, and who was one of the first Danish school teachers in America. She taught school for three years in Elkhorn, and has always taken a keen interest in educational work. Mr. and Mrs. Madsen have two daughters, Alma E. and Lydia L.

In addition to his heavy business interests, Mr. Madsen is president of the Danish Lutheran church at Kimballton of which he and his family are members. He is president of the commercial club, and is a staunch Republican. In a larger way he is interested in all good movements that has to do with the growth and prosperity of Kimballton and vicinity.

JOHN F. LIKEN.

Practical industry, wisely and vigorously applied, never fails to bring success. It carries a man onward and upward and brings out his individual character and acts as a powerful stimulant to the efforts of others. The greatest results in life are often attained by simple means, by the exercise of the ordinary qualities of common sense and perseverance. The every-day life, with its cares, necessities and duties, affords ample opportunity for acquiring experience of the best kind and its most beaten paths provide a true worker with abundant scope for effort and self-improvement. John F. Liken, the subject of this sketch, is a well-known farmer of Gray, Iowa. He is one of the largest farmers in this section of the state and is well known throughout Audubon county.

John F. Liken was born on February 6, 1857, in Allegheny county,

Pennsylvania. He is the son of Thomas and Sarah Ann (Sands) Liken, natives of Pennsylvania, and of Irish parentage. The parents of both Thomas and Sarah Ann Liken came from Ireland. Thomas Liken was born in 1815 and died in June, 1891. His wife, the mother of John F. Liken, was born in 1818 and died in 1892. Some time after their marriage, they settled in Henry county, Illinois, where they farmed from 1865 until their death. They were the parents of the following children: Mrs. Florence Huffman, of Los Angeles, California; Thomas Porter and Samuel, of Geneseo, Illinois, and John F., the subject of this sketch.

John F. Liken farmed in Henry county until 1900, residing in Geneseo, Illinois, during this period. He was the owner of five hundred acres in Henry county. He began life on his own account when he had reached his majority and was operating a great body of land. On one of his trips to Kansas, Mr. Liken was married and in 1900 came to Gray, Audubon county, where he invested in fourteen hundred and thirty acres of land in Cameron and Lincoln townships. The land was all in one tract and contained five sets of buildings. In 1910 Mr. Liken moved to Gray from his farm home in Cameron township. He has sold two hundred acres recently, but still has twelve hundred and forty acres.

Mr. Liken is one of the most extensive breeders and raisers of cattle and hogs in this section of Iowa. His annual output of cattle numbers approximately one hundred and fifty and he raises and sells each year more than three hundred head of hogs. Mr. Liken has a nice home in Gray and is one of the most highly-respected citizens of Audubon county.

John F. Liken was married on December 9, 1880, in Kansas, to Mary Brush, who was born in Johnson county, Iowa, November 27, 1856. She is the daughter of Baptist and Mary (Spratley) Brush, natives of Pennsylvania, who were early settlers in Johnson county, Iowa. They were married in Burlington, Iowa, in 1874 and, subsequently, moved to Harvey county, Kansas. Baptist Brush was born in 1828 and died on March 2, 1912. His wife, Mary Brush, the mother of Mrs. Liken, was born in 1828 and died in 1898.

John F. Liken has always been identified with the Republican party but he has never been active as a partisan and has never cared to hold political office. Mr. and Mrs. Liken and their family attend the Presbyterian church. Mr. Liken is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons at Geneseo, Illinois. He is a member of the Knights Templar at Rock Island, Illinois, and also of the Kaaba Temple, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Davenport, Iowa. Mr. Liken is vice-president of the Farmers Savings

Bank at Gray and has been very prominent in this business since moving to this place.

Mr. and Mrs. Liken have two sons, Thomas Franklin, born on August 5, 1883, who married Iya King and has two children, Gladys and Lloyd; and John Marvin, born on March 15, 1894.

WALTER SCOTLAND.

Among the earnest men whose enterprise and strength of character have gained a prominent place for them in the community, as well as the respect and confidence of their fellow citizens, is Walter Scotland, a well-known farmer of Hamlin township, Audubon county, Iowa. Mr. Scotland is a leading farmer and stock raiser in Hamlin township, where he resides, and a man of pronounced views and laudable ambitions. His influence, although a young man, has been exerted for the advancement of his vocation, and for the development of an active and alert community spirit in Hamlin township. He ranks among the representative farmers of Hamlin township.

Walter Scotland was born on February 14, 1883, in Denmark, in the part of that country known as Jylland. He is a son of Jens and Mena (Christensen) Scotland, who were also natives of Jylland. The father was a farmer and a carpenter, and he and his wife were the parents of five children, of whom Walter was the fourth.

Walter Scotland attended school in his native land until fourteen years of age, and when sixteen years old he came alone to the United States, where he had some friends. He landed at New York city and came direct to Audubon county, locating near Exira, where he has since lived.

Mr. Scotland began by working out by the month, and continued at this for four or five years, afterwards taking up ditching and tile laying, and followed these vocations for about four years. In 1907 Mr. Scotland rented a farm and in 1909 he purchased eighty acres of land in Hamlin township. He never lived on that farm, renting it to others, and in the meantime renting land for himself. In February, 1914, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 27, of Hamlin township, and here he makes his home at the present time.

On November 4, 1909, Walter Scotland was married at Audubon to Sophia Johnson, who was born April 21, 1887, in Sjaelland, Denmark, the daughter of Jens C. and Christina (Hansen) Johnson, her parents being

farmers in their native land and she was one of nine children. Her father died when she was about seven years old, and her mother married again just before coming to the United States in 1896.

Mr. and Mrs. Scotland are the parents of three children: Verna, born September 19, 1910; Francis A., born October 18, 1911, and Olive L., born on April 7, 1913.

Walter Scotland is engaged in general farming and stock raising. Mrs. Scotland has been a great help to her husband and has been a loving wife and devoted mother. Her mother and step-father, Chris Sorensen, are residents of Audubon county at present, having located here after coming to America in 1896.

Walter Scotland is a Republican, but he is not active in political affairs, and has never been a candidate for office. The family are all members of the Seventh Day Adventist church, and are active in the affairs of this denomination, and Mr. Scotland is a liberal contributor to its support.

REN PHELPS.

It is interesting to note from the beginning the growth and development of a community; to note the lines along which progress has been made, and take cognizance of those whose industry and leadership in the work of advancement have rendered possible the present prosperity of the locality under consideration. Ren Phelps, the manager of the Cedar Rapids Oil Company at Audubon, and the proprietor of a popular garage in this city, is one of the strong, sturdy individuals who has contributed largely to the material welfare of the city of Audubon where he resides. He is an up-to-date business man, a public-spirited citizen and progressive in all that the term implies.

Ren Phelps was born on August 23, 1879, at Atlantic, Iowa. He is the son of Alvin and Sarah (Usher) Phelps, natives of near Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where they lived upon a farm. The ancestors of Alvin and Sarah Phelps were old settlers in the vicinity of Cedar Rapids. Alvin was born in 1843 and died in 1907, and throughout his life was engaged in farming, and owned a great deal of real estate and was known as a capitalist in his later years. He came to Cass county, Iowa, in 1872 and became a well-to-do citizen. During the last seven years of his life, he was ill practically all of the time. His widow is still living in Atlantic. They had seven children.

Mildred, deceased; Loretta, the wife of Francis Kreamer, of Atlantic; Elizabeth, the wife of Charles Whitcomb, of Mason City, Iowa; John, deceased; Ernest and Alvin, both of whom live in Atlantic, and Ren, the subject of this sketch.

Ren Phelps was educated in the public schools of Atlantic and finished his education in the Atlantic high school. After leaving high school, he engaged in farming for one year and was then connected with various occupations. He was later in the oil business for two years and came to Audubon in October, 1913. However, he had first come to Audubon in 1903 and had worked in the Bilharz store three years. During part of this period he was also retailing oil. He also operated a moving picture show. Mr. Phelps returned to Atlantic in 1910 and after living there for three years, returned permanently to Audubon and purchased the garage in March, 1914. He has been engaged in the retail oil business and in the operation of the garage since that time.

Mr. Phelps was married on April 1, 1901, to Daisy Johnson, the daughter of L. C. Johnson, an old resident of Audubon, who has operated a dray in this city for thirty years. To Mr. and Mrs. Phelps, one child, Lefevre, aged eight years, has been born.

In politics, Ren Phelps is independent. He votes for measures and men rather than for parties and party emblems.

JOHN BALLMAN.

One of the best-remembered men of the past generation of Audubon county, Iowa, is John Ballman, who at the time of his death, was living retired in Audubon on nine acres of land. Of Mr. Ballman personally, it may be said that he was a man of strong and active sympathies, his temperament was warm and ardent, his feelings deep and intense. These and other attractive characteristics unconsciously drew him an unusual number of devoted friends, upon whom, under all circumstances, he could rely and who, now that he has past from all earthly scenes, revere his memory. He was a close student of human nature and comprehended with little effort the motives and purposes of men. He was a lover of truth and honesty; in brief, is remembered as a manly man of pleasing but dignified presence, a student of many subjects and an influential man in the circles in which he moved. Of sound character and unflagging energy, he stood as a conspicu-

ous example of symmetrically-developed manhood and his position as one of the community's representative citizens was conceded by all.

The late John Ballman was born on August 22, 1836, in Germany and died in October, 1900. John Ballman came to America in 1868 and located first in Chicago, Illinois, where he kept a boarding house and a restaurant. He was married in Chicago, May 18, 1868, to Elizabeth Bobet, who was born on June 23, 1844, in Germany, and who came to America in 1868.

After the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Ballman, they moved to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, where he worked at the carpenter's trade for three or four years. They then located in Pottawatomie county, where he taught school. Mr. Ballman then bought a farm in Shelby county and lived here for five years. At the end of this period he sold the farm and moved to Fonda, in Pocahontas county, and after one year there, came to Audubon county in 1885. Mr. Ballman lived retired in Audubon county on nine acres of land.

Mr. and Mrs. Ballman had twelve children, only five of whom are living, Mrs. Mary Plaehn, who lives in Audubon; Mrs. Anna Coleman, who lives at Bridgeport, Nebraska; Paul, who lives in Chicago; Michael, who lives at North Branch; Mrs. Sophia MacNair, who lives in Omaha, Nebraska. The deceased children are Katie, Peter, Lena, John, and three others who died in infancy.

The late John Ballman served three years and eight months in the Danish War of 1866, then came, in 1868, to America, where he remained for one year and a half. He went back to Germany for one month when the Franco-Prussian War broke out and he returned to America to escape service.

He was well known in Audubon county, Iowa, and especially in Audubon and vicinity. Mrs. Ballman, who lives on the home place, is a refined woman and takes a keen interest in the welfare of Audubon county and who is admired and respected by all of her neighbors.

GEORGE W. PRESTON.

It is generally considered by those in the habit of superficial thinking, that the history of so-called great men only is worthy of preservation, and that little merit exists among the masses to call forth the praises of the historian, or the appreciation and plaudits of mankind. A greater mistake never was made. No man is great in all things. Many, by a lucky stroke, achieve lasting fame, who before that had no reputation beyond the limits of

their immediate neighborhood. It is not a history of a lucky stroke which benefits humanity most, but the long, steady effort which made the lucky stroke possible. It is the preliminary work, the method, which serves as a guide to the success of others. One of the citizens of Audubon county, Iowa, who has achieved success by conscientious and persistent effort, is George W. Preston, the well-known merchant of Audubon.

George W. Preston was born on March 12, 1860, at Atalissa, Muscatine county, Iowa, the son of Charles N. and Mary (Worrall) Preston, natives of New York and Iowa, respectively. Charles N. Preston, the father of George W., was an early settler in Iowa, emigrating to this state in 1854, and was a harness maker by trade. In 1870 he moved to Villisca, in Montgomery county, Iowa, where he operated a grocery store for some years, and died there in 1908. George W. Preston's mother died in 1865, when he was but five years of age. He was one of three children, the others being Willard, deceased, and William, a farmer in northern Iowa. Willard and William were twins. Charles M. Preston was a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

George W. Preston was a resident of Villisca, Montgomery county, until thirty-one years of age. He was educated in the public schools of that place and assisted his father in his business for three years. Mr. Preston came to Audubon in March, 1891, and here established a grocery. In June, 1894, he moved to his present location, where he has a large room twenty-five by eighty-five feet, and a basement. He carries a complete stock of standard groceries and has a large trade in Audubon and vicinity; he employs three assistants in his store, which is one of the best of its kind in the county.

George W. Preston was married on September 13, 1883, to Lucinda C. Spargur, of Villisca, the daughter of Henry W. Spargur, and to this union ten children have been born: Donald J., who is assisting his father in the store; John A. and Edwin Lee, also assisting their father in the store; Mary E., the wife of D. C. Bell, of Anita, Iowa; Ruth, living at home with her parents, is a graduate of the Audubon high school; Henry, Helen and George, Jr., are students in the high school; Harold and Louwene are living at home.

Mr. Preston is a Republican, but his large business interests have prevented his taking a very active part in political matters. He and his family are earnest and devoted members of the Presbyterian church, in which they take an active interest, and to the support of which they are liberal contributors. George W. Preston is popular in Audubon among all classes of people. He is a man of genial manner, courteous, affable and sincere in his dealings

with men, and naturally, he is a man who is well liked. Mr. Preston is a member of the blue lodge, chapter and commandery at Audubon; also of Amity chapter, Godfrey commandery, Za-ga-zig temple, Mystic Shrine, at Des Moines.

FRANK D. THOMSEN.

The Kimballton Drug Company, of Kimballton, Iowa, of which Frank D. Thomsen and Thomas Jorgensen are the proprietors, is one of the leading mercantile institutions of this section of Audubon county. In the latter part of 1912 this store was purchased by Mr. Thomsen, Mr. Jorgensen and Chris Larsen. Ten months later, however, Mr. Larsen sold out his interest, and the store is now operated by two of the original owners. The company carries a large and complete stock of drugs, paints, wall paper, school books, cigars and tobacco, and has an enormous trade in this section, a trade which is due somewhat to the splendid personal attainments of Mr. Thomsen, who is a fine man to meet, clean in his morals, up-to-date in his business methods, and who for all of these reasons has made many warm friends since coming to this city. Mr. Thomsen has also just begun a term as postmaster of this town.

Frank D. Thomsen, postmaster and druggist of Kimballton, Iowa, was born, March 28, 1889, the son of Christian and Hanna Andersen, natives of Denmark, who came to America in 1882, and settled at Rockville, Nebraska, where the father took up a homestead, which he later lost. Subsequently, he purchased a farm, improved it, and operated it until his death, May 11, 1904, at the age of seventy-two years. His beloved wife who survived him is now living at Rockville, Nebraska. An ardent Democrat, he was also a member of the Lutheran church. He and his wife had twelve children, nine of whom are now living, as follow: Thomas, a farmer of Rockville, Nebraska; Anders, a farmer of Loop City, Nebraska; Nels, a ranchman of Big Creek, Nebraska; Mary, who married Frank Thomsen, at Big Creek, Nebraska; Andrew, of Reno, Nevada, and foreman of the Southern Pacific railroad; Chris Jens, a farmer of Loop City, Nebraska; Elva, who married Walter Lange, of Cherry county, Nebraska; and Frank D., the youngest and the subject of this sketch.

Educated in the common schools of Nebraska, Mr. Thomsen spent three years at the Kearney, Nebraska, Normal School, and two years at Creighton College of Pharmacy at Omaha, graduating from this institution

with the class of 1912. In that year he located at Elkhorn, Iowa, where he worked for nine months for the Larsen Drug Company. At the end of this period he came to Kimballton, and in association with Chris Larsen and Thomas Jorgensen, as heretofore noted, purchased the drug store now operated under the name of the Kimballton Drug Company.

Earlier in his life Mr. Thomsen worked for one year as a clerk for the Southern Pacific Railroad at Sparks, Nevada. A Democrat in politics, he has always taken an active interest in this party's welfare, and having been appointed postmaster at Kimballton, Iowa, took that office, January 1, 1915. He is a member of the Kimballton band and plays alto, also a member of the Kimballton volunteer fire department, and formerly was assistant chief.

A man of most gracious and pleasing personality and, unless present signs are wrong, Frank D. Thomsen will in time become one of the most influential business men of Audubon county. He is already well started in life, and with the momentum in business which he already has acquired should achieve even new and greater success.

MELVIN I. MASTERSON.

This sketch concerns a man who, though not seeking for, nor aspiring to, worldly honors, has lived among his family and neighbors as a quiet, honorable, Godfearing man, doing his work conscientiously, and achieving such success in business enterprises as any man might envy. It may be that for some of the hardihood of his nature he is indebted to his father, who possessed the stalwart qualities found in pioneers; but assuming this to be true, there still remain many admirable characteristics which could have been developed, it is believed, only through overcoming obstacles, and keeping ever in mind the goal to be reached.

Melvin I. Masterson is a well-known farmer of Leroy township, this county, who was born on February 24, 1872, at Oil City, Pennsylvania, son of William and Mary A. (Carter) Masterson, both natives of Venango county, Pennsylvania, where they grew up and married. William was permitted to acquire only a limited education, and was but a young man when he became a driller in the oil fields of his native state. Like so many other young men of his time, however, the West and its promise of opportunity attracted him with irresistible force, and in 1879 he came to Iowa and located in Greeley township, this county. He bought an eighty-acre tract from

the railroad company and went to work to build a home. He gradually added to this land, as he prospered, until he had, in all, three hundred and twenty acres of as good land as there is in the county. Besides his agricultural activities, William Masterson raised many cattle and hogs. As a Republican, he held several township offices, and was a Mason, belonging to the lodge at Exira. Well known and respected, he died on November 18, 1911, at the age of sixty-eight. His wife died on July 13, 1901, aged fifty-three. One of the enterprises with which William Masterson's name is still connected is the Audubon County Telephone Company, which he helped to organize. The four children born to William and Mary A. (Carter) Masterson were Melvin I., the subject of this sketch; Stella L., born on October 26, 1881, now Mrs. B. S. Huston, of Guthrie county, Iowa, and the mother of three children, Helen, Hubert and Lucile; Earl, April 18, 1884, died on October 17, 1900; Vida, April 25, 1889, married C. J. McCall, of Coon Rapids, Iowa.

Melvin I. Masterson attended the schools of Audubon county, and then for one year attended the Iowa Commercial College at Highland Park. On January 13, 1897, he was united in marriage to Flora A. Shoesmith, of North Branch, Iowa, daughter of James and Sarah J. (Lawhorn) Shoesmith, the former a native of London, England, and the latter of Kentucky. James Shoesmith came to America with his parents when only five years of age, and was reared in Illinois. Later he went to Guthrie county, Iowa, being one of the pioneers of the section in which he located, and is still living at the age of seventy-six years. His wife passed away in 1895. They were the parents of six children: William, a farmer at Hartman, Colorado; Reuben, a farmer at North Branch, Iowa; Fred, a ranchman at Nampha, Idaho; Flora A., the wife of Melvin I. Masterson; Arthur, a farmer at North Branch, Iowa, and Olive E., wife of Ernest Hawley, who died in 1903. To Melvin I. and Flora A. (Shoesmith) Masterson two children have been born, Harold O., born on November 1, 1897, and Wynona M., May 7, 1905.

After his marriage, Melvin I. Masterson bought eighty acres of partially-improved land in Greeley township, this county, lived there for five years, and then sold it and removed to Guthrie county, where he bought three hundred and sixty acres and remained for eight years. Selling this property, he then bought two hundred and forty acres in section 35, Leroy township, this county, three miles south of Audubon, on which he now lives. He also owns two hundred and forty acres near Redfield, Spink county, South Dakota.

Mr. and Mrs. Masterson now live in a splendid modern house, erected in 1911. All of its eleven rooms are lighted with electricity, and have furnace heat. The farm has had over nine thousand dollars' worth of improvements placed upon it. The barn, built in 1909, is fifty-six by sixty feet in dimensions. The hog-house, which is twenty by forty-eight feet, is equipped with a cement floor and running water. A modern ice-house is one of the latest additions to this attractive farm. Among the possessions of which Mr. Masterson is very proud are twenty-five head of registered Hereford cattle, as well as graded stock, and Poland-China hogs. He ships three car loads of live stock annually and has made a specialty of raising Belgian horses, the average number kept on the farm being twenty head. The splendid condition in which this expert in agriculture has kept his farm, as well as his progressive policy of administration, are evidence of the fact that the owner lives a very busy life.

Mr. Masterson is a Republican and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Audubon. Socially they are very well known and highly esteemed, and their home is one of the most hospitable in the neighborhood.

HANS P. PETERSEN.

The following paragraph contains briefly the salient facts of the life of a plain, honest man of affairs, Hans P. Petersen, the proprietor of a well-known mercantile establishment at Exira, this county, who, by correct methods and a strict regard for the interests of his patrons, has made his influence felt in that section of Audubon county, having won for himself distinctive prestige in the business circles of this community. Hans P. Petersen would be the last man to become the subject of fulsome eulogy. Nevertheless his life presents much that is interesting from the biographer's viewpoint, and which may be studied with profit by the young men whose careers are yet to be achieved, Mr. Petersen himself being a comparatively young man, whose integrity and strength of character call for public notice which his modesty never would seek. Mr. Petersen commands the respect of his contemporaries and has left his individuality deeply stamped upon the community in which he lives.

Hans P. Petersen was born in Denmark on December 16, 1871, the son of K. S. and Carrie (Sorenson) Petersen, both natives of that country, the latter of whom died in 1879 and the former in 1886. K. S. Petersen was



HANS P. PETERSEN

a farmer in Denmark and farmed there all his life. He served throughout the Danish-Prussian War in 1864. At the time the war broke out he was living near the Danish-Prussian border. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, seven of whom are now living, Peter K., Christena, Margaret, Soren, Hans P., Minnie and Chris. All of these children are living in America except Christena and Minnie, who still live in Denmark.

Hans P. Petersen attended school in Denmark until he was fifteen years old, after which he worked out as a farm hand, receiving a very small amount of money for wages, just about enough to clothe himself. In 1889 he came to America and located near Minden, Nebraska, on a farm. He worked there for ten dollars a month during the first summer and the following summer he received thirteen dollars. After working there for a year and a half, he went to Shelby county, Iowa, and took a course in the Danish Lutheran College at Elkhorn. After completing that course, he engaged in the creamery business at West Hamlin, Iowa, where he worked for sixteen months, and then removed to Marne, Iowa, where he operated a creamery for a short time, after which he returned to West Hamlin and about one year later took charge of the Elkhorn creamery. Later, returning to West Hamlin, he managed the creamery there for three years and then took charge of the Audubon township creamery, of which he was manager until 1901. In that year he moved to Exira and engaged in the implement business with H. P. Hansen, being thus engaged for a year and a half, at the end of which time he bought one-third interest in the Hansen-Lohmer Company, dealers in general merchandise, and in February, 1910, took over the entire business. Mr. Petersen handles a complete line of general merchandise, occupying three storerooms on the north side of Washington street, at Exira, and has built up a large and flourishing business.

On December 7, 1895, Hans P. Petersen was married to Catherine Jessen, daughter of Peter A. and Maren (Jessen) Jessen, to which union three children have been born, Henry, Carrie and Milo, all of whom are living at home. Mrs. Petersen was born in Schleswig, Germany, and her parents also are natives of that country. They came to America in 1893 and after a time located in Audubon county, where they took up farming, which they followed until 1904, in which year they retired and moved to Exira. They are the parents of nine children, Jens, Peter, Marten, Chris, Mary, Katherine, Lena, Andrew and Nis.

Mr. and Mrs. Petersen and family are members of the Danish Lutheran church. At one time Mr. Petersen served as councilman at Exira. He

is independent in politics, having lost all faith in the promises of political parties. Mr. Petersen believes in supporting men for what they are and for what they have done, rather than voting in a blind, partisan sense. Since coming to this country, Hans P. Petersen has worthily discharged his duties as an American citizen and has become a potent factor in the civic life of Exira township.

JASPER NORTHUP.

Jasper Northup is generally recognized as one of the energetic and well-known business men of Audubon county, who, by his enterprise and progressive methods, has contributed in a material way to the commercial advancement of the locality where he lives. In the course of an honorable career he has been successful in the manifold lines to which his efforts have been directed, and enjoying, as he does, distinct prestige among the representative business men of his community, it is proper that attention be called to his achievements and due credit be accorded to his worth as an enterprising citizen of this great county.

Jasper Northup, a well-known building contractor of Audubon, Iowa, was born on March 18, 1873, in Johnson county, Nebraska. He is the son of Nathan and Harriet (Sherlock) Northup, early settlers of Audubon county. Jasper Northup resided in Nebraska with his parents until 1877, and then came with them to Iowa county, Iowa. In 1882 he came to Audubon county and settled in Douglas township, where he was reared and attended school. Since his boyhood, Mr. Northup has worked at the brick-and-stonemason's trade. He learned the trade early in life and in 1899 began contracting on his own account. In 1903 Mr. Northup went west and located in Nebraska. Here he followed construction and building for six years and worked principally in McCook, where he erected several brick business blocks. Mr. Northup also did extensive work in towns not far from McCook. In 1909 he was engaged in construction work in Denver and along the Pacific coast, in Washington and in Idaho. He returned to Iowa in the fall of 1912, and resumed his trade in this state. In the spring of 1914, Mr. Northup engaged in some construction work for Audubon county and is now engaged actively in the erection of concrete bridges.

Jasper Northup was married, June 7, 1892, to Elizabeth Quinn, of Johnson county, Iowa. To this happy union four children have been born, Edna, the wife of William Liberty, of Denver, Colorado. They have one

child, Richard Francis; Roy is at home; Elsie is the wife of Benjamin Liberty, of Denver, Colorado, and they have one child; George lives at home.

Mr. Northup is identified with the Democratic party, but although he supports the candidate for the Democratic party in national politics, he is more or less independent in local affairs. Jasper Northup is a man who is well known in Audubon county. He is a progressive, wide-awake, up-to-date business man who believes in twentieth-century methods. He is genial in his manner and is highly esteemed by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

WILLIAM A. CLARK.

Whatever may be their circumstances or conditions in life, the widow and children of a war veteran have a noble heritage which the wealth of a king cannot buy. The man who has made the supreme sacrifice, willingness to give his life for a great cause, and the woman who has shared the sorrow and the suffering necessary to such a sacrifice, have experienced an exaltation that only those capable of heroism can know or understand. He who has fought a single battle when that battle has been in the cause of right, is indeed, worthy of a crown of laurels. What, then, shall be the tribute worthy of the man who has offered his life in sixteen battles? Great and sublime must be the courage of the man who can say, not once, but many times. "If my country needs my life, here it is." The biographer regards it as an honor to record even briefly the chief events in the life of such a man, for in doing so, not only is that life commemorated but it is held up as an inspiration to high and patriotic endeavor.

William A. Clark was born in New Jersey on January 20, 1842, the son of John and Mary (Allen) Clark, who migrated to Illinois at an early date, and later made their home in Poweshiek county, Iowa, where William A. Clark was living when, in 1861, he enlisted in Company F, Tenth Regiment Iowa Volunteer Infantry, at Victor, Iowa, for service in the Union army during the Civil War, and for three years and three months this young patriot saw service in the Army of the Cumberland. Many are the interesting stories Mr. Clark used to relate concerning the sixteen battles in which he took part, the most tragic of which was the battle of Vicksburg, where he had a narrow escape from death.

For a while after the war, William A. Clark located in Poweshiek

county, Iowa, and then went with his family to Kansas, where they lived three years. The journey was made in a wagon drawn by oxen, and it required three weeks to cover the distance. Part of the worldly wealth which Mr. Clark transported West were several horses and six cows. Locating in Republic county, the family were carrying out plans for a permanent home there when they were overtaken by a serious drought which drove them back to the state they had previously left. After living near Avoca, Iowa, for a period of five years, and in Carroll county for three years, Mr. Clark obtained eighty acres in Leroy township, this county, and here the family home has been established for the past thirty years. After his service in the war, the veteran chose farming as his occupation, and this engaged his attention the remainder of his life, during the last eleven years of which he was an invalid.

On December 25, 1879, William A. Clark was united in marriage to Jane M. Greenlee, who was born in Venango county, Pennsylvania, on November 7, 1849, and who came to Iowa with her parents when a girl, the family locating in Poweshiek county. To this union ten children were born, namely: May, who married Austin Linn and lives in Gray, Iowa; Wilburn, a farmer in Leroy township, this county, married Clara Freese; Robert, a cement worker in Ontario, California; Charles, deceased; Mary, who married William Thomas and also went to Ontario, California, to live; Jennie, who married Henry Leighty, of Leroy township; John and Nellie, who live at home, the former giving his time to agriculture; Lois, who married Earl Terry, a well-known farmer of this township; Sarah, the youngest child, has remained at home. All of these children were educated in the home schools. After finishing her education, May became a teacher and is very popular among her associates, both pupils and teachers. The father of these children died on January 7, 1906, and was widely mourned, for he was a good man. His widow is still living in her pleasant home in Leroy township.

Few residents of Audubon county were better known or more respected than was William A. Clark, and few have left a more highly honored memory. Knowing something of Mr. Clark's patriotism, or at least, of its expression, it is not surprising to learn that after the war his interest in the Grand Army of the Republic, of which he was a member, never abated. In fact, it grew stronger with the years, although in the later years of his life ill health prevented his former activity in the affairs of the post to which he was attached at Audubon. Mr. Clark was a life-long Republican, and a member of the Methodist church. It is difficult to close a sketch, even as brief as this, without paying a tribute to the patriotism of such a man as Mr.

Clark. But where are the words to express what one really feels when one contemplates the meaning of such self-abnegation as his? He was living a quiet, useful life when the war broke out. Then the nation had need of that life. The supreme test came when volunteers were asked for. And without hesitation, this brave man took leave of his family, and started upon a journey, the destination of which he did not know. Fortunately for those who loved him, and whom he loved, he returned, but with impaired health. Equally strong and unselfish in peace and in war, can we honor too much the memory of a man like William A. Clark?

FRANKLIN L. MAY.

The late Franklin L. May, formerly one of the best-known residents of Greeley township, this county, was one of the men who did well his part in the upbuilding of Audubon county, and it is but fitting that in a review of the lives of the men who wrought so well, his name should be given a place.

Franklin L. May (deceased) was born in West Virginia on February 16, 1851, the son of Valentine and Elizabeth (Esbeck) May, both of whom were natives of Schluechtern, Germany, who came to the United States, landing at Baltimore in 1840 and located in West Virginia, where they remained until 1852, in which year the family came West, locating near Anamosa, Jones county, this state, where the parents spent the rest of their lives. They were the parents of eleven children: Mrs. Martha Canfield, Mrs. Elizabeth Burns, Mrs. Marguerite Heitchen, Mrs. Mary Wagoner, Nicholas, William Charles, Franklin L., James, Mrs. Parthenia Wagoner and Henry. Charles May came to this county in 1877, and in 1880 Franklin L. May came with his family, buying one hundred and twenty acres of land in sections 9 and 16 of Greeley township, on which he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in October, 1889. For the land which he bought he paid eight dollars an acre and it now is one of the best farms in the county.

On January 8, 1874, in Jones county, Iowa, Franklin I. May was united in marriage to Mary L. Howland, who was born in Brown county, Ohio, April 17, 1855, the daughter of George W. and Clarinda (Hall) Howland, natives of Ohio, who came to Iowa in 1868, locating in Linn county, later going to Texas, in which state the father and two children died within less than a year, after which the mother returned to Iowa and made her home

with her daughter, Mrs. May, the rest of her life. The Howlands were the parents of six children, of whom Mrs. May was the eldest, the others being Albert, Mrs. Ellen Kelsey, Rufus, Louisa and Henry.

To Franklin L. and Mary L. (Howland) May were born six children, five of whom are living: Jennie, born on June 6, 1877, married Frank Myers, and has three children, Donald, Bernard and Albert L.; Albert, born on November 23, 1879, married Emma Myers and has six children, Gerald, Ellowene, Frank, Arnold, Oralees and Chester; Roxie, born on November 21, 1881, married Ralph Stanley and has four children, Dolliver, Wyman, Evelyn and Merlin; Marguerite, born on February 12, 1884, married Homer Beers and has one child, Bernice M., and Muriel, born on December 25, 1887, who married Orin Colee and has one child, Maxine.

Mr. May was a Democrat and took an earnest interest in local politics. For several years he served as township trustee and was instrumental in making many improvements during his administration. His widow is a member of the Methodist church and is a woman who is held in the highest regard among a large circle of acquaintances in her neighborhood. Her late husband was a good citizen and his community suffered a real loss at his death.

CARL D. FORSBECK.

It is proper to judge the success of a man's life by the estimation in which he is held by his fellow citizens. They see him at his work, in his family circle, in church, and hear his views on public questions, observe his morals and witness how he conducts himself in all the relations of society and civilization. They are, therefore, competent to judge of his merits and demerits. After a long course of years of daily observation, it would be out of the question for a man's neighbors not to know his worth. In this connection it is not too much to say that Carl D. Forsbeck has passed a life of great service to the people of Audubon county. That he has been industrious and has the confidence of all who have the pleasure of his friendship cannot be denied. Mr. Forsbeck has been honored by the people of Audubon county with appointment to the responsible position of county engineer.

Carl D. Forsbeck was born on May 3, 1883, on a farm near Gray, Iowa. He is a son of Andrew G. and Mary (Aikman) Forsbeck, natives of Sweden and Lyons, Iowa, respectively. Andrew G. Forsbeck was born in 1846 in Sweden and came from that country when twenty-five years of age

to America. He was a sailor from boyhood and crossed the ocean several times from Liverpool to New York. He made several voyages, in fact, to New York city and to southern ports, and also to southern European ports. He settled in Illinois in about 1874 and there married. In 1880 he came to Lincoln township, Audubon county, Iowa, and settled on prairie land. He purchased land from the Rock Island railroad and was successful in developing a fine farm. Since 1911 he has been living in Gray. During his active life he was an extensive dealer in live stock. Andrew G. and Mary (Aikman) Forsbeck had three children: Ella, the wife of Lou Hansen, of Gray; Sadie, the wife of Chris Christensen, a farmer near Gray; and Carl D., the third child.

Carl D. Forsbeck was educated in the Gray and Audubon schools and in Iowa State College. After attending the latter institution five years he received the degree of Bachelor of Science in 1908, and was graduated as a civil engineer. Subsequently, he took a post graduate course at the Armour Institute of Technology in Chicago. He is now working for his Master's degree in this institution. For some years Mr. Forsbeck was civil engineer for the Rock Island railroad and was connected with the maintenance work on the Iowa division. While attending college he worked for the Des Moines and Iowa Falls railroad; also the Ft. Dodge and Southern railroad during his vacations. After his graduation he went to New Mexico, where he had charge of forty thousand acres of land and made a survey which required one year. Mr. Forsbeck was employed by the Santa Fe railroad for about one year in New Mexico, Texas and Colorado on maintenance and construction work. He then worked for the Southern Pacific railroad and was located in New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado for seven months on locating a new line across the Navazo Reservation from Gallup, New Mexico, to Durango, Colorado. After this he returned to Iowa and did valuation work for the Union Pacific for nearly two months. At Waterloo, Mr. Forsbeck maintained a private office as consulting engineer until June, 1913, when he came to Audubon and took charge of the county work on January 1, 1914. Previously, Mr. Forsbeck had twice been elected county surveyor of Audubon county. He also had been appointed once. He has been in charge of the engineering work in Audubon county for the past eight years.

Mr. Forsbeck designed and constructed the Kimballton waterworks system. He also designed the first steel bridge, with concrete floors and concrete abutments that was ever erected in Audubon county. In fact, Mr. Forsbeck was the first engineer appointed in Audubon county.

Politically, Mr. Forsbeck is an independent Republican and votes for

men rather than party emblems. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, the blue lodge and the chapter, and he is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. Forsbeck is a member of the Iowa Engineering Society and a member of the Delta Upsilon national Greek letter college fraternity.

CHRISTOFFER HANSEN.

One of the best known members of the large Danish colony in Audubon county, Christoffer Hansen, came to this country at the age of nineteen and by diligence and faithful attention to the duties in hand, has established himself in a very comfortable home in this county and is held as among the most substantial men in his section of the county.

Christoffer Hansen was born in Sjealand, Denmark, April 20, 1872, the son of Peter and Dorothea (Christophersen) Hansen, both of whom were natives of the same district, landowners and farmers, and parents of six children, four of whom are still living, Mrs. Marie (Nelson) Petersen, Christoffer, Hans L. and Lars, Hans L. and Christopher being the only members of the family to come to this country. Until he was fourteen years of age, Christoffer Hansen attended the schools of his native district, after which he engaged in farm work in the neighborhood of his farm until March of the year 1891, at which time he came to the United States, landing at New York and proceeding directly to Oakfield, Iowa, where his uncle, Jens P. Christoffersen, made his home. He remained there for about six years, working on farms, and then, in 1896, bought a farm of one hundred and twenty acres near Poplar, in Shelby county. After a year's residence there he sold his farm and bought eighty acres in section 8 of Hamlin township, this county, where he lived for four years, at the end of which time he sold that place and bought one hundred and twenty acres in section 9 of Greeley township, where he since has made his home. To this farm he has added, since he bought it, forty acres more in section 9 and forty acres in section 10, making, in all, a fine farm, which he has brought to a high state of cultivation.

On December 7, 1903, in the city of Audubon, Christoffer Hansen was united in marriage with Mrs. Tena (Nelson) Christiansen, who was born in Jylland, Denmark, November 1, 1873, the only daughter of Jasper C. and Anna C. (Thomsen) Nelson, whose father died when she was quite small

and her mother, marrying a second time, came to America in 1889. By her first marriage, Mrs. Hansen had two children, John T., born August 13, 1894, and Matilda C., born July 26, 1896.

To Christoffer and Tena (Nelson) Hansen have been born five children, Peter C., born on September 30, 1904; Dorothea C., born on May 1, 1906; Louie J., born on June 17, 1908; Oscar F., born on September 27, 1911, and Walter M., born on August 26, 1913, a lively set of youngsters who make merry the happy home of the Hansens.

Mr. and Mrs. Hansen are members of the Danish Lutheran church, in the various beneficences of which they are actively interested and are regarded as among the leaders in the community in which they live. Mr. Hansen is a Democrat and gives such attention to political affairs as a good citizen owes to his commonwealth. He is public-spirited and enterprising, a good farmer and neighbor and he and his good wife are held in the highest regard by all who know them.

ROBERT RUTHERFORD.

This biography records the chief facts in the life of a man, who, in early manhood, tired of living where populations were large and incomes small, turned his eyes toward America in the hope that he might reach above the general level. There is something almost pathetic in the trustfulness and confidence with which the youth of the Old World look toward the newer civilizations as affording ample opportunity for the prosperity of all who may seek their shores; and the fact that an Iowa foreign-born farmer is able to retire from active business before he becomes aged, is evidence that much of this youthful trust is not misplaced.

Robert Rutherford, now one of the well-known retired farmers of Ross, Iowa, was born on December 24, 1833, in County Down, Ireland, son of Thomas and Fannie (Simpson) Rutherford, farmers and weavers, to whom were born, in the order of their birth, the following children: William, Thomas, Jennie, James, John, Robert, Alexander, Eliza and Adam, of whom Robert, the subject of this sketch, is now the sole survivor. Thomas Rutherford and his wife were Presbyterians and their children were reared in that faith.

It was when Robert Rutherford was a young man of nineteen that he and his brother, Alexander, started for America in a sailing vessel called

"Guiding Star." It seems that the youthful travelers were not guided very rapidly, for it took them seven weeks to go from Liverpool to New Orleans. Landing on the Southern coast, they boarded a river steamer for St. Louis, and somewhere in the vicinity of that city the brothers engaged in farming for one year. Robert Rutherford's next home was Rock Island, Illinois, and there he lived for seventeen years, at the end of which time he removed to Poweshiek county, Iowa.

In June, 1861, Robert Rutherford married May Campbell, an interesting fact concerning the marriage being that although both bride and groom lived in the same county in this country, both were born in the same county in Ireland. At the time of their marriage, May Campbell was living with her parents, John and Margaret (McQuaid) Campbell, who had come to this country from County Down, Ireland, and in 1850 had located in Rock Island county, Illinois, where they spent the remainder of their lives. May Campbell was born on April 9, 1840. Her father, John Campbell, was born on February 11, 1806. He was a farmer, and a member of the Presbyterian church. His first wife was a Miss Warnick, and by this marriage there were two children, Ann Jane and Hugh, both of whom are dead. His children by his second wife were May, who married Mr. Rutherford; Margaret, born on December 22, 1844, deceased; Robert, January 17, 1848, deceased, and the Hon. Thomas Campbell, January 9, 1842, who lives in Rock Island county, Illinois, having permanently located there after coming to America with his parents in 1850. He was educated in the schools of that county and was brought up by a man named John Boyer. Before the Civil War, he was a farmer. During his service in the army, he was shot through the right leg, the injured member afterwards being amputated. The Hon. Thomas Campbell, in 1914, was re-elected to the Illinois Legislature on the Republican ticket. He also has been county treasurer of Rock Island county, Illinois. His wife was, before her marriage, May Carson.

After the marriage of Robert Rutherford, he and his wife lived on a farm in Rock Island county for a number of years. Then they purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Poweshiek county, Iowa, where they lived until March, 1881. Then they sold out, came to Audubon county and bought an equal number of acres one mile north and a quarter of a mile east of Ross, in Cameron township. To this farm another hundred and sixty acres presently were added, and still later, forty acres more, so that he now has two hundred and eighty acres of well-improved land, which is valuable in itself as well as because of the improvements made by the owner.

Mr. Rutherford carried on general farming and stock raising from

that time until 1901, in which year he retired from business and moved to the village of Ross, building his home there on a piece of land consisting of two and three-fourths acres. Other valuable property is owned by Mr. Rutherford in his home town. Mr. Rutherford was at one time school director in Cameron township. He is a Democrat and has always taken an interest in politics.

The chief joy of Mr. and Mrs. Rutherford during their declining years is the pleasure they derive from the visits of their children and grandchildren. The eldest child born to Mr. and Mrs. Rutherford was Margaret Jane, born on March 24, 1862, who married John McKage, of Brunnell, Iowa. Their children are James, Lizzie, Jane and Sarah. Mary Rutherford, the second child, born on October 27, 1863, now deceased, married Hugh McGill, and by this marriage became the mother of Florence, Robert, Fannie and Thomas. The third child, Fannie, born on April 6, 1866, married Isaac Stewart, of Sanborn county, South Dakota, and their children are Mary, John, James, Stella, Albert, Lulu. Thomas, of Cameron township, this county, born on February 14, 1869, married Belle Hunt, and to them have been born Vera, Clark, Inez and Alice. John Rutherford, born on February 14, 1871, married Nellie Quinby and makes his home in Emmett county, Iowa. Their children are Merrill, Lucile, Jack, Edna, Mary and Emmett. Jane, now Mrs. George Rutherford, was born on February 17, 1873. She and her husband and their three children, Lester, Nellie and Charlie, live in Hastings, Nebraska. Essie, born on April 6, 1875, is now deceased. Of this entire family, Nancy, born on December 24, 1877, who clerks in a store in Ross, is the only child living at home. The youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Rutherford is Robert J., born on March 19, 1881, who, with his wife and three children, Harold, Glenn and Howard, lives in Cameron township.

The man whose name forms the title of this short biography, is now enjoying the fruits of a life of industry and thrift, his companion, the wife who has shared all the hardships and joys of the larger part of his years, sharing also the peace and quiet of the present years. Both were willing to start life in a small way, and to climb the ladder by degrees, often by very slow degrees. Somewhere among his reminiscences is the memory of a period of eight years during which he worked for fourteen dollars a month, and, not to be surpassed by her husband in the matter of memories, Mrs. Rutherford recalls the time when she worked for a dollar and fifty cents a week. These facts are quoted merely to indicate, in a very imperfect way, the strong will power and almost unlimited capacity for work which this couple possessed. And it is gratifying to know that they are permitted to

enjoy together their declining years in the companionship which made their younger days happy. Their presence is an inspiration to their children and friends.

SAMUEL BEERS.

The proprietor of "Forest Home Farm," in Greeley township, this county, Samuel Beers, is a native son of Audubon county and is one of the substantial and progressive men who have done so much to establish the present excellent conditions of living in this section of the proud state of Iowa.

Samuel Beers was born on a farm on the site of what later became the old town of Hamlin, in Hamlin township, Audubon county, Iowa, March 24, 1859, the son of Bradley and Hannah G. (Eles) Beers, natives of New York state, who came to this county from Delaware county, that state, and who spent the rest of their lives here, the former dying in March, 1878, and the latter on October 23, 1902.

Bradley Beers, who in his day was one of the best-known and most influential residents of Hamlin township, came to Audubon county about the first of the year 1856 and bought three hundred and twenty acres of virgin land in Hamlin township, where the town of Hamlin later sprang up, giving for the same one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre. After erecting a house and a barn here, Mr. Beers returned to New York and brought back with him to their new home on the prairie, his wife and their child, Frank, the two other children, Samuel and Clara, the latter of whom married Edward Young, being born after the parents arrived here. On account of the distance from his home to a school house, Samuel Beers did not have an opportunity of attending school until he was ten years of age, after which he attended two or three terms of district school and one or two terms at Exira. His father dying when Samuel was but nineteen years of age, much of the responsibility of keeping up the farm was thrown upon the latter, who, upon his marriage, brought his wife to the home farm, which his father had purchased in Greeley township about three years before his death, and where his mother spent her last days.

On September 11, 1881, in the town of Exira, this county, Samuel Beers was united in marriage with Ora D. Herrick, who was born in Exira on October 28, 1863, the daughter of Urbane and Charlotte (Spurling) Herrick, natives of Wisconsin, who came to Audubon county in 1853 and

settled on a farm where the town of Exira now stands. Urbane Herrick donated one acre of land to the town of Exira for a school building, one acre to the first minister who arrived in the place for parsonage grounds and also donated a tract of land for cemetery purposes. By his first marriage Urbane Herrick had four children, Scott, Ora D., Lorinda and Rose. Upon the death of the mother of these children, Mr. Herrick married Kezia Smith, by whom he had three children, Roby, Stella and Maggie.

To Samuel and Ora D. (Herrick) Beers two children were born, Homer L., born on October 4, 1885, who married Margaret May, a former school teacher, and who has one child, a daughter, Bernice May, born on August 11, 1912, and Ruth E., who was born on October 16, 1891, who married Glenn Scott and has one child, a son, Arnold Beers, born on February 21, 1915. Mr. and Mrs. Beers are members of the Evangelical church and are among the founders of that church in their neighborhood. They are active in local good works and are held in the highest esteem by all who know them.

PETER LANGE.

No more substantial and moral citizens have ever come to this country from foreign lands than the sons of the little kingdom of Denmark. Wherever they have settled, they have become honored and respected citizens. As a race they are characterized by industry, patience, frugality and wise business management. They have a patience and perseverance which overcome all obstacles and insures success in whatever undertaking they choose to follow. Audubon county, Iowa, has been honored by the coming of several sons of Denmark and one of the prominent farmers of Hamlin township, who was born in Denmark is Peter Lange.

Peter Lange was born on December 2, 1860, in Vensyssel, Jutland, Denmark. He is the son of Chris and Mary Marie Lange, both of whom were born at the same place as their son, Peter. Peter Lange's father died when he was six months old. There were two children at that time, Peter and Marie. His mother married again some years later and Peter made his home with her until he was eleven years old, when he was compelled to go out into the world and earn his own living. He worked out at farm work in his own country until he was twenty-seven years old and then, in April, 1888, came to the United States, landing in New York city. He came direct to Harlan, Shelby county, Iowa, where he had a half-brother. He worked

out for neighboring farmers for about two years and then rented land east of Audubon for about seven years. After this period, he rented another farm in Melville township for five years and in the fall of 1901 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 29 of Hamlin township. He has built all of the buildings on this place and has one of the best-improved farms in Hamlin township.

On April 4, 1891, Mr. Lange was married in Kimballton, Iowa, to Johanne Andersen, who was born on September 18, 1864, in Velling, Jutland, Denmark. She is the daughter of Anders and Matte Marie (Christensen) Anderson, both of whom were born in the same place as their daughter. Mrs. Lange came to the United States when twenty-six years old, coming direct to Audubon county.

To Mr. and Mrs. Peter Lange, six children have been born, Chris, who was born on July 4, 1893; Mary, August 29, 1895; Agnes, February 21, 1898; Lawrence, March 1, 1900; Martha, November 21, 1903, and William, September 16, 1905. All of these children live at home.

Peter Lange is engaged in general farming and stock raising. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Savings Bank at Hamlin and from the organization of this bank has been prominent and influential in its management. He is a successful farmer and has greatly profited in the breeding of live stock.

Mr. Lange is a Democrat in politics and has served as school director of his township, but this is the only office he has held. Otherwise, he has devoted his attention to his family, his home and his farm. Religiously, the family are members of the Danish Lutheran church.

PETER R. NISSEN.

There is no calling, however humble, in which enterprise and industry, coupled with well-directed purpose, will not produce some measure of success, and in the pursuit of agriculture these qualities are especially essential. Among the well-known and highly-respected farmers of Audubon county, Iowa, who have attained in a comparatively short time a definite degree of success in their vocation, and who at the same time have greatly benefited the community in which they live by virtue of their interest and helpfulness in public affairs and public movements, is Peter R. Nissen, of Hamlin township, Audubon county, Iowa.

Peter R. Nissen was born, December 3, 1866, in Germany. He is the son of Jesse and Mary (Reinholdt) Nissen. They were born in Schleswig,

when it was still a part of Denmark. They were farmers and the parents of two children, both boys, Peter R. and Fred.

Peter R. Nissen lived at home until he was sixteen years old. He received a good common-school education in his native country. In 1882, when he was sixteen years old, he left the paternal roof and came to the United States, where he had an uncle and aunt living in Shelby county, Iowa. Peter R. Nissen lived with them for one year. He then commenced working out by the month, doing this for four years. In the meantime he rented land and at the end of his period of working for different farmers, he rented land for one year and had saved at the end of that time a couple of hundred dollars. He invested this money in eighty acres of land in Shelby county and lived there for sixteen years. He then sold that farm and purchased a hundred and sixty acres of land in Hamlin township, Audubon county, where he lived for twelve years, then sold out and bought forty acres in Leroy township, where he now lives. Mr. Nissen owns eighty acres in Guthrie county, Iowa.

On October 24, 1887, Peter R. Nissen was married in Shelby county to Mary Spirup, who was born July 24, 1866, in Denmark, and who is the daughter of Michael and Mary Spirup. The father was a day laborer, who died in Denmark. The mother then came to the United States about 1884 and one year later Mr. Nissen's wife came.

To Mr. and Mrs. Nissen have been born three children: Jesse R., who was born July 8, 1888, and was married, November 24, 1911, to Mollie Miller; Mary R., born on August 4, 1892, and was married, March 1, 1911, to Clint Rice, and they have two children, Nira Arleen, born on April 22, 1912, and an infant son, born on December 27, 1914; Michael R., born on February 14, 1895, and lives at home.

Mr. Nissen is a member of the Danish Lutheran church. He is a Democrat in politics and served as township clerk for two years. He helped to organize the Farmers Savings Bank of Hamlin and was assistant cashier for two years. He was also an examiner for the bank. For nine years Mr. Nissen was also a director of the Blue Grass Creamery Company of Audubon county. On his farm Mr. Nissen keeps a good grade of stock, though he does not keep thoroughbreds.

Peter R. Nissen is highly respected and well known in this part of Audubon county. He has been intimately connected with its agricultural and commercial history and has much to do with its progress and prosperity. He was elected township clerk of Hamlin township, but resigned when he moved to Leroy township.

THEODORE PATTY.

Some of the largest personal successes on record have been to some degree a matter of accident; not that a successful business itself is built upon accident, but that accident may turn the course of a man's career from a vocation he either does not like or would not pursue with success, to one in which he would become very successful. Misfortune, as often happens, is the omen of better things to come. Theodore Patty, one of the best-known citizens of Audubon county, for some years was a mail carrier, and then, following a long period of illness, turned his attention to the insurance business, in which he has been extraordinarily successful, having had at the present time thirty years' experience in this line in this locality. In the beginning of his insurance career, he specialized in fire and tornado insurance and represents the best companies, not only in this country, but abroad. Among these are the Continental, of New York; the Queen, of New York; the Fidelity-Phenix, of New York; the Hanover, of New York; the Springfield Fire and Marine; the Connecticut, of Connecticut; the Fireman's Fund, of San Francisco; the German-American, of New York; the Farmers, of Cedar Rapids; the National, of Connecticut; the Iowa State, of Keokuk; the Security, of Davenport; the Hartford, of Connecticut, and the Firemen's, of Newark, New Jersey. In his career as an insurance man, Mr. Patty has paid out in excess of thirty thousand dollars in losses, and has thus contributed to the well-being of hundreds of his fellow citizens. He believes thoroughly in insurance, talks insurance and is capable of making his fellows believe as he does.

Theodore Patty was born on September 13, 1853, in Newton, Miami county, Ohio, the son of David and Mary (Coats) Patty, the former of whom was a native of Ohio and the latter of Knightstown, Indiana. But little is known of the early generations of the Patty family. It is known, however, that Theodore's maternal grandfather, George Coats, was born in North Carolina, on October 9, 1806, and that he died at Le Mars, Plymouth county, Iowa, on March 13, 1883. During his life he followed many vocations, having been a minister in the Christian church, a merchant and a farmer.

David Patty followed farming most of his life and in 1855 the family came west from Ohio, locating at Irving, Benton county, Iowa, where they lived until 1869, when they moved to Carroll county, Iowa, driving through with five yoke of oxen. When they located in Carroll, it was a town of



THEODORE PATTY

about two or three hundred population. David Patty purchased and sold live stock and conducted a meat market. During the two years that the family lived at Carroll, Theodore, then a mere lad, started the first dray line in the town, doing his hauling with a one-horse wagon.

Theodore Patty is the eldest of eight children, the others in the order of their birth being: Mary L., born on October 2, 1857, who is the wife of William S. Bush, and lives at Fairfax, South Dakota; Esmeralda, May 13, 1860, who married Horatio S. Wetherell and is now deceased; Charles M., June 15, 1862, who lives on the old home farm; William, June 6, 1864; Emma A., November 10, 1867, who died on February 23, 1890, taught school in Audubon county from the time she was sixteen years old; Edward E., October 31, 1875, died on September 21, 1878, and Ella E., September 1, 1878, who married Andrew P. Petersen and lives at Hamill, Tripp county, South Dakota.

In April, 1871, in company with several companions, Theodore Patty came to Audubon county, locating in Exira, and in September of the same year his father, on his way to Kansas, drove through Exira, and after reaching there gave up the idea of going farther west and purchased eighty acres of land in Greeley township, where he spent the rest of his life, with the exception of two years, 1873-1875, which the family spent in Benton county, Iowa.

When Theodore Patty first came to Audubon county, he worked as a farm hand, and about 1875, upon his return from Benton county, began carrying the mail from Atlantic, the nearest railroad point, to Exira, continuing in this service until the railroad was built through Exira in 1879. Owing to a long period of illness, he was unable to work for the next two years. In the meantime he took up a careful study of the insurance business, and on February 2, 1881, he wrote his first risk, and has been continuously in the business in Exira ever since, having paid out over thirty thousand dollars in losses. His business is confined to fire, tornado and liability insurance.

On September 2, 1887, Theodore Patty was married to Mamie B. Winchell, who was born on May 4, 1869, in Cascade, Dubuque county, Iowa, and who died at Estancia, New Mexico, on September 19, 1913. She was the daughter of Charles and Hattie (Bucknam) Winchell, who came to Audubon county about 1879. To Theodore and Mamie B. (Winchell-Patty) was born one child, Ida Irma, who was born on April 16, 1889. After attending school at Council Bluffs, Winfield, Kansas, and Muskogee, Indian

Territory, and after having learned the Spanish language at the latter school, Ida Irma Patty went to Socorro, New Mexico, where for some time she taught school and was in demand as an interpreter for the Mexicans. While living in New Mexico, Miss Patty homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land in Torrence county, and at her mother's death inherited the latter's claim of one hundred and sixty acres, making a total of three hundred and twenty acres which she now owns.

Theodore Patty is a member of the Knights of Pythias, having joined this order on August 31, 1887, a charter member of the Exira lodge, and is also a member of the Pythian Sisters. He also is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Order of the Eastern Star and of the Knights of the Maccabees, of which latter lodge he has been record-keeper for over ten years. Mr. Patty attributes his success in business somewhat to the fact that he has never mixed in politics and he has never held office, thus never having permitted politics to interfere with his personal and private business. The Christian church is the ancestral church of the Pattys, and Theodore Patty is a member of this church, as was his wife and is his daughter. He is a man of most pleasing personality, honest, conscientious and straightforward in all of his dealings, a man upon whom the people of Audubon county rely absolutely for the truth, not only about insurance, but about anything whatsoever represented by him.

LARS PETER CHRISTENSEN.

Coming to America from Denmark when he was twenty-eight years of age, Lars Peter Christensen, who started his new life in his adopted country as a common laborer, has made such excellent use of his opportunities that now, at a time not much past his middle age, he is able to live a life of comfortable retirement in his fine home in Exira, this county, enjoying the fruitage of his life of active endeavor and the confidence and esteem of his many friends.

Lars Peter Christensen was born in Hjerring, Denmark, January 9, 1855, the son of Christian and Mary (Nelson) Christensen, farming people and natives of the same place, who were the parents of eleven children, all of whom are deceased, save the immediate subject of this sketch. Mr. Christensen attended school in his native village until he was fourteen years of age, at which time he entered an apprenticeship to the brick-making industry, bricks there being made by hand, and for years followed that trade,

becoming so expert that he could make four thousand bricks a day. He married in his home village and remained there until he was twenty-eight years of age, at which time he and his family came to this country, arriving on May 20, 1882, at Loreville, Green county, Iowa, where he secured work with the Milwaukee Railroad Company as a laborer, after two years of which service he was promoted to the position of section foreman, which he held for six years, at the end of which time he was given charge of a construction and gravel train, remaining with the company in that capacity for about two years, after which he bought one hundred and twenty acres of land west of Scranton, Iowa, where he lived for five years, at the end of which time he sold that place and bought one hundred and sixty acres five miles south of Beard, Guthrie county, Iowa, which he sold after two years' residence thereon and bought two hundred and twelve acres two miles west of Penora, meanwhile owning several other farms in Guthrie county. In 1905 Mr. Christiansen traded for one hundred and seventy acres of land in section 11 of Hamlin township, this county, and lived there until the spring of 1915, at which time he bought a couple of houses in the city of Exira and retired from the active life of the farm, making his home in one of the houses which he had bought. He also has owned several other farms in Audubon county and is very well circumstanced.

On October 14, 1877, in Denmark, Lars Peter Christensen was united in marriage with Mary Sorensen, who was born in the same village in which he was born, the daughter of Christian and Katrina Sorensen, and to this union ten children were born, five sons and five daughters, of whom all are living save one son and one daughter: Chris married Lena Hansen, of Neola, this state, and has five children; Anna married Fred Christensen and has one child, Ellis; Agnes married Chris Christensen, a native of Schleswig-Holstein, and they have two children, Clarence and Mary; Mary married Walter Micklesen and has two children, Charles and August; Harry is unmarried; Tillie married Walter Lane and has two children, Charles and Peter; Peter and Charles are unmarried. The mother of these children died in Penora, Iowa, June 9, 1901, and Mr. Christensen married, secondly, September 28, 1907, in Exira, Mrs. Katrina Hansen, who was born on August 20, 1850, in Denmark and who died on September 27, 1910.

Mr. Christensen is a Republican, though he is not a politician and has never been included in the office-seeking class. He and his family are members of the Danish Lutheran church and are active supporters of all the good works of the same, being regarded as among the most substantial and earnest members thereof. Mr. Christensen is a good citizen and enjoys the confidence and respect of a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

WILLIAM RUCKER.

It is a source of pleasure to the biographer, who approaches his work with personal interest, to trace, if he can, the effects of early environment upon the life and conduct of the subject of his inquiry. Often it will be found that events and circumstances, which at the time of their occurrence may have seemed trivial and unimportant, have had a strong influence in shaping the tastes or activities of after life. Both heredity and environment unquestionably play a large part in the lives of men and women, and while scientists are trying to determine which is the more potent of the two factors, the student of biography may derive some pleasure from tracing the law in his own field of observation, even if only very hastily. In the present case, this law is quite marked. A man is found prominent in the social, educational and intellectual life of a certain community, entering joyfully into any enterprise that will benefit his county. Going back one generation, it is learned that his father was a school teacher, practically giving his services to the children he loved, a very public-spirited man. The mother also was an intelligent, amiable woman, careful unto the ways of her household. Here, altruism in the parents was handed down to bless succeeding generations.

William Rucker, now a well-known retired farmer of Audubon county, was born on September 6, 1852, in Rockingham county, Virginia, the son of Benjamin Franklin and Sarah (Herndon) Rucker, both natives of Virginia. Benjamin F. Rucker was finely educated, held many offices of trust and of a public nature, and was very widely known in eastern Virginia. He taught school and music, teaching in what was known as "the old subscription school" of three months, and receiving pay on the basis of one dollar and twenty-five cents each for as many as seventy-five pupils during this length of term. Some of his pupils were as old as their teacher, and some showed their appreciation of these educational advantages by going ten and fifteen miles to school. The senior Rucker was very fond of the hunt, and thought a great deal of horses. He was much interested in politics and at the outbreak of the Civil War was ranked as a Douglas Democrat. Although a Southerner by birth, he was opposed to slavery and used his influence and energies to keep Virginia in the Union. In his later years, he was a retail merchant.

To Benjamin and Sarah (Herndon) Rucker were born ten children, the eldest of whom was William, the subject of this biography. The three children following him died early in life. James, the fourth child, was a farmer

in Audubon county, Iowa, for twenty years, and is living now in Pope county, Minnesota. Walter, a farmer, has returned to the state of his grandfather, and lives in Rockingham county, Virginia. James is a railroad conductor on the Norfolk and Western railway at Shenandoah, Page county, Virginia. George died in infancy. Mary Susan, is the widow of Charles Osborn, who was master mechanic on the North Western railroad, and now lives at Shepards-town, West Virginia.

Most of the early schooling which William Rucker received was obtained through his father, and early in life he began working away from home, in an iron foundry in Page county, Virginia, where he was employed for two and one-half years, after which he went to McDonough county, Illinois, where he farmed from the year 1870 to the year 1881, in which latter year he came to this county and engaged in the same occupation. In 1892 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Greeley township, to which he later added one hundred and twenty acres, living on this property until 1907, in which year he sold out and moved to Audubon, where he lived for two years, during thirteen months of which time he was a brakeman on the Burlington railroad between Rock Island and St. Louis.

On December 20, 1887, William Rucker was married to Fannie Carper, of Warren county, Iowa, the daughter of W. R. and Laura (Turner) Carper, the former a native of Berkley county, West Virginia, and the latter of Ohio. W. R. Carper was a farmer and auctioneer, who died on February 20, 1914. His wife died on December 18, 1890. Mrs. Rucker is the eldest of the eight children born to W. R. Carper and wife, the others being Maggie, widow of W. H. Stearns of Leroy township, this county; B. F., a farmer in Tripp county, South Dakota; James, a baker in Audubon, this county; Eva, who married Everett Bates of Howard county, South Dakota; Burile, a chef in Chillicothe, Ohio; Robert, a dentist living in Maxwell, Iowa, and Alma who passed away in infancy.

For twenty-six years William Rucker was actively engaged in farming in Audubon county and was considered one of the best farmers in the vicinity. He raised Shorthorn cattle, Poland China hogs and a fine grade of horses. His business ability is shown by the fact that land which he bought for twenty-seven dollars an acre, he afterwards sold for one hundred and five dollars an acre, he having spent about eight thousand dollars for improvements, these including a splendid grove and orchard. His attractive modern ten-room home in Audubon, where he is now living in comfortable retirement, was built six years ago, and its appearance is much enhanced by the large yard surrounding it, this consisting of four adjoining lots.

The two eldest daughters in the family of eight children born to William and Fannie (Carper) Rucker are away from home, Edith being employed in Wilkin's department store in Des Moines, Iowa, and Ethel, who is the wife of Robert McKinney, a lumberman, living at Logan, Iowa. The remaining children, Lola, Mary, Sadie, William, Charles and Dorothea, are at home.

While Mr. and Mrs. Rucker have been content to work hard, and climb the ladder of success by degrees, they have not allowed family and personal interests to usurp all of their time or interest. Any movement that meant benefit to the county, they have loyally supported, and have given both of time and means to the betterment of the community. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that they have many friends. They are both genial and likeable and are held in high esteem by all who know them.

Mr. Rucker has always kept informed on the leading events of the day, and is a man who would be considered well-read in any society. He has been deeply interested in politics, as a Democrat, has been a school treasurer for many years, and a justice of the peace and road supervisor.

ROY ANCIAUX.

One of the best-known and most popular of the young farmers of Greeley township, this county, is the gentleman whose name the reader has noted above. Mr. Anciaux is enterprising and energetic and gives earnest promise of being one of the foremost factors in the life of the community in which he lives, and as such is very properly entitled to recognition in this review of the lives of the leading men and women of Audubon county.

Roy Anciaux was born on his present home farm in Greeley township, Audubon county, Iowa, March 27, 1888, the son of Lewis and Mariah (Hoover) Anciaux, the former of whom was a native of France and the latter of whom was born in Johnson county, Iowa. Lewis Anciaux was but eight years of age when his parents emigrated to America. They landed in New York and came direct to Iowa, locating in Johnson county, where Lewis grew to manhood. Immediately after their marriage, in 1870, Lewis Anciaux and his bride came to Audubon county, buying eighty acres in section 15 of Greeley township, to which they later added forty acres on the north and there they made their home until May, 1910, at which time they went to Logan county, Colorado, where they took a homestead and where they now reside. They were the parents of eight children, one of whom

died in infancy, the others being Mrs. Dora Armstrong, Arthur, Ellen, Mrs. Fannie Sidell, Mrs. Effie Sheets, Roy and Mrs. Catherine Wiseman, Roy being the only one who is now a resident of Audubon county.

Roy Anciaux received his education in the district schools of Greeley township, growing up with a full acquaintance of farm life as preparation for his present vocation and on March 2, 1910, was united in marriage to Hazel Hensley, who was born in the city of Exira, this county, January 5, 1888, the daughter of William and Minnie L. (Detman) Hensley, natives, respectively, of Ohio and of Germany, quite early settlers in Audubon county and prominent in the social and economic life of the county, an excellent family honored and respected by all.

Mr. and Mrs. Anciaux are members of the Greeley Center Methodist church and take an active part in the work of that church. Socially, they are very popular and are among the leaders in the younger set in their community. Mr. Anciaux is a Democrat, as was his father, and takes a good citizen's part in the political affairs of the county, but has not entered the class of office seekers. He is public spirited and enterprising, a good farmer and an excellent citizen and very properly is regarded as one of the coming leaders in the community in which he lives and whose interests he holds so dearly to heart.

PATRICK McMAHON.

A lad coming to America with a widowed mother and two small brothers and one small sister, apparently has little chance for success, unless he brings with him wealth in some form, whether this be a bank account or a stout heart and willing hands. To be sure, the former of these assets hardly can be acquired at the age of seven, which was the age of Patrick McMahon when he journeyed across the ocean with the fatherless family, resting his hope for the future in himself, and perhaps in expectation of the help and encouragement of their nearest male relative, an uncle living in Janesville, Wisconsin.

Patrick McMahon was born on September 5, 1849, in County Tipperary, Ireland, the son of John and Bridget (Needham) McMahon, both natives of Tipperary. When Patrick was a very small boy, his father died of glanders, a disease which he contracted from a horse, as the elder McMahon was a farmer, and a well-known dealer in horses. Then it was, in 1855, that the little family sought their relative in America, emigrating to Rock county,

Wisconsin, where they found the uncle, a hotel keeper in Janesville, and there they made their home, the mother passing away in 1889. Patrick was the third child of this family, the others being Maria, now Mrs. Michael O'Brien of Rock county, Wisconsin; Michael, who, previous to his death in Carroll, Iowa, was a railroad man and farmer, and John, who lives in the state of Washington.

The subject of this brief biography has demonstrated by his subsequent success in life that the little Irish boy, who arrived in America apparently equipped only with health and hope, in reality had resources which were to be a great asset in the struggle which was before him. He possessed determination and the capacity for hard work. And it is these qualities which enabled him to reach the prominence in his community which justifies the appearance of his name in the present volume.

Until his sixteenth year, Patrick McMahon attended school in Janesville, Wisconsin. Then he became a fireman on the Chicago and Northwestern railroad, with headquarters at Rockford, Illinois, following this occupation for a year and six months, at the end of which time he was transferred to a passenger train running between Madison, Wisconsin and Harvard Junction. Later promoted to the position of engineer, he then ran on a freight train between Baraboo, Wisconsin, and Harvard Junction for several years. Madison and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, were the extremes between which he ran a passenger train until the year 1892, when, for some reason, he left the road, and moved to Audubon, this county. For the next eighteen years, he took care of a school building in that town. Then, it seems, his interests began to turn toward his land. In 1877 he had bought one hundred and sixty acres in Douglas township, this county, paying ten hundred and forty dollars for the tract, which was a splendid piece of property. Twenty-seven years later he sold the same land and bought two hundred and forty acres near Lukin's Grove, three and one-half miles east of Audubon, the sale price being one hundred and twenty-five dollars an acre.

On April 15, 1880, Patrick McMahon was united in marriage to Mary Desmond, who was born in McHenry county, Illinois, a daughter of Cornelius and Honnorah (McEniry) Desmond, natives of Cork, Ireland, who came to America and became pioneers of McHenry county, Illinois. Cornelius Desmond was a farmer, and passed the remainder of his life in that county. The mother of Mrs. McMahon lived with her until 1907, when she died at the age of ninety-three years. To Patrick and Mary (Desmond) McMahon but one son was born, John, who now is in the real estate business at 5501 South Ashland avenue, Chicago, Illinois. John McMahon was born

in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on June 31, 1883. He is a graduate of the Audubon schools, and of St. Ambrose College at Davenport, Iowa, as well as of Armour Institute, Chicago. In the latter school he took a course in civil engineering. The home of Mr. and Mrs. McMahon, a splendid building erected on three acres of ground in the east corporation of Audubon, was purchased in 1892. Valuable improvements have been added, including attractive shade trees and a fine orchard.

Busy with his agricultural, and in early life, with other enterprises, Mr. McMahon's tastes and ambitions have not led him into political fields, but he has always voted the Democratic ticket. He and his wife are among the prominent members of the Catholic church in the town in which they live. Both appear young for their years and are interesting acquaintances and excellent company, for they have a goodly supply of Irish wit. For several years, Mr. McMahon has not been engaged actively in business. He is fond of his home, and of the quiet mode of life which he has chosen, and is a good neighbor; a friend worthy of friendship.

The little lad who came from Ireland, leaving his father in the churchyard there, has become a successful American citizen, and when success came, he remained loyal and kind to the mother, who, with faith in God and in herself, brought her small family to a country where the conditions seemed less difficult to overcome, and where industry was more certain of reward.

THOMAS WILLIAMSON.

Iowa has been particularly fortunate in two respects. She has many sons whose sturdy qualities enable them to develop her rich natural resources in time of peace, and it has been found that in time of war, these same sons can turn their hand to the sword as effectively as to the plow. With a citizenship of this kind, there need be no fears concerning the commonwealth, because its prosperity has for its basis both moral courage and the essentials of industrial success; assuming that a state's productivity depends ultimately upon its soil. In the life of the person in whom the reader's present interest centers, are found both of the above phases of the common life. That is, he has been a hard-working, prosperous farmer, and also a brave, self-sacrificing soldier, either of which attainments are such as to merit the highest commendation.

Thomas Williamson, now a well-known retired farmer of Audubon,

this county, was born on December 6, 1839, in Bond county, Greenville, Illinois, the son of William and Laura (Brown) Williamson, the former a native of Kentucky, and the latter of Virginia, who were numbered among the pioneers of Bond county, Illinois, later moving to Logan, this state. In his early years William Williamson was what is now called an "old time Whig," but afterwards became a Republican. Both he and his good wife, who shared nobly the hardships of their early struggles, were possessed of such qualities as merited the esteem of the neighborhood in which they lived and they had many warm friends. This respected couple spent their last days in Logan. Their children were ten in number. The first-born, Benjamin, and the second born, Mary Ellen, are both dead. Thomas, the subject of this sketch, was the third child born in this household. The next son, Chapman, is also dead. Louisa is living in Logan county, and Nancy, in Livingston county, Illinois. The next three children, Lucy, Jesse and Willie are dead. Frances lives in Arizona. Of five sons belonging to this interesting family, three served in the war. These were the subject of this sketch, and his brothers Chapman and Jesse, Chapman being a member of the First Artillery of Missouri for a period of three years. Thomas Williamson enlisted on August 22, 1862, in Company A, One Hundred and Eighth Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, at Peoria, Illinois, and was sent with his company to Memphis, Tennessee. He still carries the bullet with which he was shot in the shoulder while in service at Paris, Kentucky. He was also wounded in the windpipe, and was taken to the hospital at Paris where he was obliged to remain for two weeks. After his release, he was returned to his regiment and served until the fall of 1864.

Thomas Williamson, like so many other lads of those early days, desired, but could not obtain an education. It is difficult, perhaps, for the present generation to realize the heartaches of the youth of preceding generations to whom an education was but a dream, so accustomed have the youth of today become to good free schools. So, young Williamson had to be content with what the old log school house of Illinois could give him, walking three and four miles to obtain even this much. Until enlisting in the army, he lived at home and a year after his return from the army was married, on September 5, 1865, to Mrs. Margaret May, widow of Henry May, of Ohio, who was a Union soldier during the Civil War, serving in Company C, Sixty-ninth Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and who lost his life at the siege of Vicksburg. Mrs. Williamson was born in Preble county, Ohio, daughter of John W. and Nancy Ann (Beatly) Davidson, the latter of whom

spent all her life in Preble county. John W. Davidson died in Audubon, in the year 1905. He and his wife were the parents of six children, of whom Mrs. Williams is the only survivor, the others having been Mary, Richard, James, Nancy and Peleg. By her first marriage, Mrs. Williamson became the mother of two daughters, May Adeline and Henrietta, both of whom have passed away. After their marriage, Thomas Williamson and his wife lived on a farm in Logan county, where Mr. Williamson took charge of machinery, including thrashing machines, for many years. In September, 1885, they decided to change their place of residence, and moved their household goods to Audubon county, securing eighty acres of land in Leroy township, three miles northeast of Audubon. Having put extensive improvements on their property, they remained there until 1905, when they again moved, this time to West Audubon, selling the farm to one of their sons. They then built a fine home on two splendidly located lots in Audubon and Mr. Williamson managed the electric-light plant for a number of years following, giving absolute satisfaction to the citizens of that city.

To Thomas and Margaret (Davidson) Williamson five children have been born, namely: William, a farmer of Madison county, Iowa, who married Ulah Phillips and has seven children, Arthur, Howard, George, Garland, Esther, Florence and Lester; George Harvey, a farmer and stock raiser of Leroy township, this county, who married Effie P. Fry and has five children, Orville, Ezma, Margaret, Lowell and Leverne; Reuben, who is deceased; Josie, who married Charles Trumell, living near Spencer, Iowa, and has six children, Eddie, Floyd, Albert, Harold, Raymond and Donald, and Martha Jane, the last born, who died while a small child.

One of the conspicuous figures at the reunions of the Grand Army of the Republic is Thomas Williamson, who has never ceased to have a real interest in all that concerns his country. He is fond of relating his war experiences, and though advanced in years, this part of his life seems as vivid and as real as his present activities. It is not improper to close this brief sketch by paying tribute to the wife of Mr. Williamson, a woman of character and attainment, and of such personality as to bring to their home many friends by whom they are both held in high esteem. In all of his efforts, this good woman has ably done her part toward helping her husband to attain success, always making her personal happiness subservient to the happiness of her family, for only thus could she find contentment. She is a member of the Presbyterian church and for years has been warmly concerned in the various beneficences of that church.

PETER RUBEL.

The gentleman whose name here greets the eyes of the reader, one of the best-known and most prosperous farmers of Greeley township, this county, is another of that considerable number of Germans, who, as young men, came to this country to seek better opportunities than they could hope to obtain in the Fatherland. Energetic, thrifty and enterprising, he has succeeded largely and is one of the substantial men of the county.

Peter Rubel was born in Bavaria, Germany, November 18, 1844, the son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Unger) Rubel, farming people who spent their whole lives in their native land. At the age of twenty-one, Peter Rubel came to America, landing in New York on February 8, 1866. He remained in New York state until the fall of that year, at which time he proceeded west, stopping in Ogle county, Illinois, where he married and where he lived for about eight years, at the end of which time he moved on farther west, locating, in 1872, in Mahaska county, Iowa, where he remained until the year 1883, in which year he came to Audubon county, renting eighty acres of land in Douglas township. For seven years he rented land in that and Sharon township and then bought one hundred and twenty acres in Douglas township, on which he lived for eleven years, at the end of which time he sold the farm and then for one year lived near the town of Gray, after which he bought two hundred and forty acres of land in section 8 of Greeley township, where he since has made his home. Prospering there, he presently added eighty acres to his first purchase, making in all a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, which he has greatly improved and upon which he has erected a fine set of farm buildings, giving him one of the best and most highly-improved farms in Greeley township, upon which he carries on general farming and stock raising with a large measure of success.

In September, 1872, Peter Rubel was united in marriage with Mary H. Ehrenhart, who was born in Germany, a daughter of George Ehrenhart, to which union six children were born: Maggie, who married Albert G. Beech and has six children, Pearl, Earl, Lester, Ethel, Ralph and Harold; Emma, who married David Snyder; Otto, who married Sophia Burr and has four children, Harold, Clarence, Russel and Marion; Addie, unmarried, lives in the city of Omaha; Dora, deceased, and Tilda, who also is unmarried and lives in Omaha. The mother of these children died on May 10, 1889, and Mr. Rubel married, secondly, September 22, 1891, Amelia Sabel, who was born in Germany, the daughter of John and Henrietta (Willnitz) Sabel, and to this latter union eleven children have been born, Charles, Mary, Albert,

William, Walter, Earl, Louis, Minnie, Lee, Lester and Glenn, all of whom are living at home save Charles and Albert.

Mr. and Mrs. Rubel are members of the Lutheran church and have reared their children in the faith of this church. He is independent in his political views and gives close attention to the political affairs of the county. He is deeply interested in the educational affairs of his home township and has been school director for four years.

SAMUEL G. WEAVER.

Samuel G. Weaver is widely known as one of the early citizens of Audubon county, Iowa, who, for nearly fifty years, has been a valued factor in the development of the state of Iowa and prominently identified with the various interests of the community. His well-directed energies in the practical affairs of life, the capable management of his own business interests, and his sound judgment, have demonstrated what may be accomplished by a man who works with one end in view. Mr. Weaver often has persevered in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles, and he has proven that he is the possessor of those innate qualities which do not fail to bring success.

Samuel G. Weaver was born on January 22, 1856, in Lena, Stevenson county, Illinois, and is a son of Abraham and Margaret (Grossman) Weaver, natives of Clarion county, Pennsylvania, and Center county, Pennsylvania. They were very early settlers in Stevenson county, Illinois, driving through from Pennsylvania in covered wagons. The father was a blacksmith in Pennsylvania, but took up farming in Illinois until after the Civil War and then moved to Lena, where he engaged in the lumber business for several years. Later, he gave up his business and engaged in the general mercantile affairs which he followed until he died at the ripe old age of eighty-nine years.

Samuel G. Weaver received his education in the schools of Lena, but being different from the most of boys, he did not care to while away his moments in his father's store, as he spent most of his vacations on the farm. Mr. Weaver lived at home until the spring of 1876, and in March of that year, he came west to Audubon county, Iowa, where his father had given him eighty acres of land. Mr. Weaver got as far as Des Moines on his way, and the mud and clay got so bad that he was compelled to ship his horses and wagon the rest of the way. He had been to the county in 1874, when he

helped some neighbors drive cattle through from Illinois. The land on which he located was the Frank Harrington homestead, which was one of the very first farms settled in Audubon county, and was located three miles north of Exira. In November, Mr. Weaver went back to Illinois, and was married, after which he returned to Audubon county, and lived in Greeley township ever since, with the exception of two years, during which he lived in Exira township.

Samuel G. Weaver was married on November 7, 1876, in Lena, Stevenson county, Illinois, to Mattie Johnson, who was born near Argyle, Wisconsin, and who was a daughter of Robert and Caroline (Peterman) Johnson, both natives of England, and who were the parents of five children. The mother of these children died when they were all quite young, and the children were then scattered, Mrs. Weaver having been bound out to a family by the name of Rockwell, living near Lena, Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Weaver are the parents of four children: Lillie, born on February 10, 1878, married Lewis Bryan, and they live in Pomona, California, and have three children, Wyman, Rodger and Paul; Sidney R., born on March 5, 1881, lives at home; Anna, born on July 23, 1883, and Maud, born on September 1, 1887, the last named living at home with their parents.

Mr. Weaver is engaged in general farming and stock raising, making a specialty of raising thoroughbred registered Poland-China hogs, and also specializing in Plymouth Rock chickens, in which line he has been more than ordinarily successful. Mr. Weaver has added to his original land holdings until he is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of good land. His son also owns one hundred and sixty acres. His home is modern and is equipped with a furnace, gas lights, waterworks and all present-day conveniences. His farm buildings are all of the best type, and most of the incidental work on the farm is done by the latest improved machinery. Mr. Weaver milks an average of fifteen cows the year round, and has met with gratifying success in his dairying operations. Mr. Weaver has considerable property in southern California, where he spends most of the winters.

Samuel G. Weaver is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He is independent in politics, although he had been a Republican earlier in life. He has served as township trustee, but has never been an office seeker, and has never particularly cared about holding office. The Weaver family are members of the Evangelical Association church, and take an active part in the work of this church, and are loyal and liberal contributors to its support.

Samuel G. Weaver is one of the most prominent men in Greeley town-

ship, Audubon county. He is a man who is admired for his many worthy qualities. He is interested in public improvements and has been a foremost leader in developing a wholesome community spirit in Greeley township, where he has made his home for so many years.

HANS C. FREDERICKSEN.

Among the strong and influential citizens of Audubon county, Iowa, a record of whose lives have become an essential part of the history of this section, Hans C. Fredericksen, of Hamlin township, occupies a prominent place. For many years he has exerted a beneficial influence in the locality where he resides. His chief characteristics are keenness of perception, tireless energy, honesty of purpose and everyday common sense, which have enabled him not only to advance his own interests but also largely contribute to the moral and material advancement of the community.

Hans C. Fredericksen was born on April 6, 1857, in Denmark. He is the son of Frederick and Hanne Fredericksen, both natives of Denmark, where they were farmers. They had seven children, of whom Hans C. was the third, the father dying when Hans C. was five years old, after which the mother was married again. Hans C. lived at home until eighteen years of age, at which time he started to earn his own living, working on neighboring farms.

In the spring of 1884, Hans C. Fredericksen came to the United States, landing at New York city. He came directly from New York city to Clinton, Iowa, where he had relatives. He worked in a saw-mill there for one year and then took up farm work which he followed for five years. Subsequently, he rented land for fourteen years and in the spring of 1903 came farther west to Audubon county, where he purchased his present farm of three hundred and sixty acres in section 14 of Hamlin township. The land was fairly well improved for such a large farm, and Mr. Fredericksen has built a large eleven-roomed house with furnace, gas lights and waterworks throughout. He has also built a large barn, one hundred and sixteen by one hundred and eighteen feet, which is one of the largest in Audubon county. Mr. Fredericksen has good cattle sheds, hogs houses, etc., and altogether one of the most improved and best-equipped farms in this section of the state of Iowa. Since coming to this state, Mr. Fredericksen has made his industry count for increasing profit each year. His farm is conducted as a business

proposition and he keeps a careful account of profits and losses and is, therefore, able to adjust his profit and the products of his farm in accordance with what he is able to make out of each department.

On July 22, 1890, Mr. Fredericksen was married in Clinton, Iowa, to Amelia Hansen, who was born in Denmark and came to the United States in the same year which she and her husband were married. Mr. and Mrs. Fredericksen have six children, Ellen, Frederick, Metha, Freda, Marie and Esther. All of these children are living at home. The mother of these children died on July 22, 1911.

Hans C. Fredericksen does general farming and stock raising. He feeds a great many cattle and hogs and is, in fact, one of the largest feeders in Audubon county.

Mr. Fredericksen is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a Democrat, but has never held office nor has he ever cared to do so. The duties required in overseeing his large interests and the various operations upon his farm, have prevented him from taking an active part in political affairs; moreover, he is more keenly interested in the welfare of his family and his home. The Fredericksen family are all active members and loyal supporters of the Danish Lutheran church.

HON. WILLIAM RAYMOND GREEN.

In the largest and best sense of the term the Hon. William Raymond Green, M. C., is distinctively one of the notable men of his day and generation, and as such his life record is entitled to a conspicuous place in the annals of his county and state. As a citizen he has been public spirited and enterprising. As a friend and neighbor he has combined the qualities of head and heart that have won confidence and commanded respect. As judge of a district court he discharged his duties with signal ability, conscientious care and in such a manner as to win the universal respect and confidence of all who had business in his court. The Hon. William Raymond has been more than successful in his legal career, having a splendid record at the bar and a long tenure on the bench in the fifteenth judicial district. He was a master of his profession, a leader among men distinguished for the high order of their legal talent, his eminent attainments making him an authority on all matters involving a sound knowledge of jurisprudence. He achieved success as a lawyer at an age when most young men are just entering upon their forma-

tive period. So successful was he as a judge and jurist that in 1911 the people of the ninth congressional district conferred additional honor upon him, electing him representative in the lower house of the national Congress.

William Raymond Green was born in Colchester, Connecticut in 1856, the son of Timothy F. and Maria (Raymond) Green, of old New England stock. James Green, the great-grandfather of the Hon. William Raymond Green served in the Revolutionary army as a captain of a company in the First Connecticut Horse. Mr. Green's parents moved from Connecticut to Illinois when their now distinguished son was a lad and the latter passed his boyhood in the little town of Malden, Bureau county, Illinois, and was graduated from the high school at Princeton, county seat of that county, when he was eighteen years of age. From the high school he went to Oberlin College, at Oberlin, Ohio, working his way through that institution by manual labor and by teaching school in the winters, and was graduated from the classical course of Oberlin College in 1879. Thus armed with a diploma he was engaged as principal of the schools at Neponset, Illinois, where he remained two years. During his vacations he had studied law and the following year completed his law course in the office of McCoy, Pratt & McCoy at Chicago. In 1881 he was admitted to the bar at Ottawa, Illinois, and in that same year commenced the practice of law at Dow City, Iowa, where he remained for two and one-half years, moving thence to Council Bluffs, where he remained until 1885, in which year he came to this county, locating at Audubon, where he formed a co-partnership with John A. Nash and B. S. Phelps under the firm name of Nash, Phelps & Green. The firm carried on a law, loan and abstract business, and Mr. Green took charge of the legal department of the business. This partnership continued until 1895, the year in which Mr. Green was elected judge of the fifteenth judicial district of Iowa, to which position he was re-elected four times. In 1911 Judge Green resigned his position on the bench, having been elected in that year representative in Congress for the ninth congressional district of Iowa. To this position he has been re-elected for the third term. Judge Green has made an enviable record as a member of Congress and has been a power in shaping legislation at Washington, being generally recognized as one of the leading members of the Iowa delegation in the national Congress.

In 1887 William Raymond Green was united in marriage to Luella Washington Brown, of Creston, Iowa, to which union two children have been born, William Raymond Green, Jr., and Margaret Thorp Green.

Judge and Mrs. Green reside during a part of the year in Washington

and part of the year in Audubon, their old home, and are highly honored and respected by the people, not only of Audubon county, but of the surrounding counties which Judge Green is serving so well in the capacity of legislator and public servant.

THOMAS F. MUSSON.

So keen is present-day competition that he must be gifted with ability who can wrest success, if not fortune, from circumstances and environment, which in themselves do not seem promising, at least from a worldly viewpoint. To do this, and at the same time to leave a name that is honored even beyond the geographical limits of the home, and a memory that is cherished by family and friends alike, is perhaps the highest type of success; however quiet and obscure may have been the life. After all, may there not be other values higher than those by which a man is generally judged? And if so, who shall say this or that life is the more successful? As a lover of his home, as a business man, and as a loyal, God-fearing citizen, Thomas F. Musson, now deceased, will long be remembered by the community in which he passed the most of his life, and always with respect and esteem.

Thomas F. Musson was a native of England, born in December, 1835, the son of James Musson, who lived all of his life in England, and whose occupation was farming and stock raising. In 1865 Thomas F. Musson came to America, his brother, William, coming later. William Musson located in Des Moines, Iowa, and lived there until 1868. He died on January 11, 1900, leaving a widow, and four children, two sons and two daughters. William Musson was first a railroad man, having been for some time baggagemaster on the old Fort Dodge railroad, and later became station agent, a position he held for many years. Entering politics to some extent, he was elected, by the Republicans, county clerk of Polk county, Iowa, retaining that office for three terms. He died while filling the office of grand secretary of the grand lodge of Odd Fellows in Iowa.

Thomas F. Musson was still a young man when he arrived at Chicago. After engaging in the stock business at the Chicago stockyards for two years, he took up farm work in Madison, Iowa, and in 1876 came to Audubon county, where, the next year, he bought one and one-half sections of good land in Melville township and lived there for the next thirteen years. Selling this, he bought four hundred and eighty acres in Leroy township, known as the Barlow place, three miles east of Audubon, and later bought one-half

section of land in Cook county, South Dakota. Mr. Musson was an expert on the subject of stock raising. He was a breeder of Hereford cattle, and of draft horses, and carried on an extensive business.

In 1878, Thomas F. Musson was married to Sarah Boone, whose family history is of more than the ordinary interest. She was born in Washington county, Indiana, a daughter of William Boone, who was related to Daniel Boone, that sturdy old pioneer who more than once escaped death at the hands of the Indians. William Boone's wife was Susannah Farnsley, of Harrison county, Indiana. William himself was born in Boone county, Iowa, the state to which his parents had migrated from Indiana in 1847, traveling with their household goods packed in two four-horse wagons and one two-horse wagon, twenty-five head of stock bringing up the rear. The journey was not as expeditious nor as comfortable as the modern Pullman, for it required four weeks and two days to cover the distance. In arriving at their destination, they found only a few log cabins in the settlement, which is now one of the largest and most thriving of the Western cities, Des Moines. Coming to a stretch of promising country, fifteen miles west of that place, they stopped their tired horses, untied the ropes from their weary cattle's necks, unpacked such personal and household belongings as were needed for immediate use, built a fire for their supper, and this was the beginning of the town named Boone. The rugged pioneer who was the father of a family to become well-known as early settlers, had previously chosen this site for his home, for he had made the same journey the previous year, and had bought a claim on Coon river. Not long after the first camp fire, he gathered together the necessary material and put up a two-story log cabin, the second story being considered a luxury in those days, and later built a more modern home. He always remained a farmer and stock raiser. It is not surprising that this enterprising man became the owner of a large tract of land, for aside from the advantages of being an early arrival, he possessed great energy and power of endurance. However the hard work and deprivations which are the lot of the pioneer told upon his health, for he died in 1854, at the early age of forty-nine, his widow's death not occurring until thirty-three years later. As early settlers, this family was, of course, very well known. Of a family of nine children, only two, Mrs. Musson and a sister, Mary, living in Montrose, California, survive. Mrs. Musson was the fourth child in the order of birth, and her surviving sister, the next to the youngest. The others were John, a farmer who lived in Boone, Iowa, and died in 1912; Florida, Francis, Martha, Margaret, Julia and Elizabeth. The family belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church.

To Thomas F. and Sarah (Boone) Musson were born six children, all but one of whom are living, as follows: John A., who lived at Audubon until his death on July 4, 1912, and is mentioned elsewhere in this volume; Mary, who married Fred A. Buthweg, a merchant of Audubon, a biographical sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume; Laura, who married J. E. Griffith, a druggist of Audubon; Bertha, who married Charles S. McCleran, of Audubon; Charles S., a dentist, also living in Audubon, and Susie, who lives at home with her mother.

Mr. Musson was, during the active period of his life, one of the notable farmers and stock raisers of this county. His prominence and popularity were not based upon the fact of his material possessions, but rather upon those estimable traits of character which attracted friends and strangers alike. He was gentle, charitable and hospitable, and had that priceless possession known as self-command. His religious faith was expressed in the tenets of the Episcopal church, but his wife retained her membership in the Presbyterian church of Audubon. Mr. Musson belonged to that solid, reliable class of citizens which can always be depended upon to do the right thing at the right time, and who will not allow personal interests to interfere with matters of duty where others are concerned. All who knew him respected him, and his death, on March 16, 1904, was a real loss to a neighborhood, he still being held in grateful and respectful remembrance by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

CHARLES JURGENS.

Of the European nations whose sons have come to America to seek their fortunes none has contributed a finer type of citizenship than Germany. The virile characteristics of their old Teutonic ancestors seem to persist generation after generation, and there is no section of a newly-settled country that does not welcome them as neighbors and prospective citizens. The examples which such settlements and families always set are wholesome and helpful to their neighbors, of whatever nationality, and much of the successful agriculture of the Middle West, for example, is due to the thrift, the industry and the economy of these early settlers who brought with them their old-world ideals.

An excellent example of this type of early settler is Charles Jurgens, a prominent farmer of Douglas township, who came to this country with his

parents, John and Lena Jurgens, when he was twenty-four years of age. He was born in Pommern, Germany, on December 5, 1860, his parents also having been natives of that place. The father came to America in 1884, and died a year later, the wife remaining in Germany. Both were Lutheran in faith. They had four children, namely: William, who is dead; Ricky, who married Fred Margerfleich, lives in Colorado; Minnie, the wife of William Beckman, of Osceola county, Iowa, and Charles, the subject of this biographical sketch. Owing to the adverse economic conditions of his early surroundings, an education was impossible, and in youth and early manhood he worked out on a farm until he came to America. Just previous to coming here, he married Hannah Beckman, also of Pommern, the wedding taking place on September 26, 1882. His bride was a daughter of Ludwig and Mary (Miller) Beckman, who came to this country in 1883 and located in LaSalle county, Illinois. In the hope of bettering their condition and of finding more congenial home surroundings, they came to Audubon county eight years later, making their new home in Douglas township, where they spent the rest of their lives. Like the parents on the other side of the family, they, too, were Lutherans. Their children were William, of Osceola county, Iowa; Hannah, who married Mr. Jergens; Minnie, who married August Raebel, of Audubon; Ricky, who became the wife of William Berg, of Douglas township, and Ludwig, of Lincoln township, this county.

Upon coming to this country in 1882, Charles Jurgens and his wife first took up their residence in La Salle county, Illinois, farming there for three and one-half years, after which they went to Osceola county, where they remained a similar length of time. Then, for a period of twelve years, they lived and worked in several localities of Audubon county, finally buying their home of one hundred and twenty acres of section 4, Douglas township. Under their direction, the farm began to take on another aspect, and when the splendid new residence was built, it became a landmark of the entire neighborhood. Mr. Jurgens learned the principles of agriculture from his father, and his reputation in this line is unexcelled. He specializes in fine stock, having a grade of cattle, hogs and horses, of which any farmer might be proud.

To Charles and Hannah (Beckman) Jurgens eight children have been born, Lewis, Mary, Anna, August, Max, Dora, Elizabeth and Ella. Of these, Lewis married Sophia Ross and lives in Audubon; Mary married Homer Ross and lives in Lincoln township, this county; Anna married Fred Klave and lives in Sibley, Osceola county, this state, and August married Anna Borkowski and lives in Lincoln township, this county.

Although he has never cared to be in public life, Charles Jurgens has taken a warm interest in the political affairs of the county and has always cast his vote with the Republicans. Mr. and Mrs. Jurgens are active church members, and are generous with time and means in any enterprise that will make the church of greater influence and power in the community. Having lived in this county for many years, they are very well known, and their sphere of influence for this reason is large. Their home is a home in the true sense of the word. It has never been used merely as a shelter and dwelling place for the family that owned it, but has always had an open door for friends and acquaintances, of whom they have many. In building a home and in making beautiful the waste places about them, Mr. and Mrs. Jurgens have contributed to the whole community, of which they and their children have been an important part.

WILLIAM MILLER.

There was not much in his early surroundings to inspire dreams of conquest when William Miller, now a prominent farmer of Douglas township, this county, was a little lad growing up in Germany. But, somehow, the spirit within him seemed mightier than the conditions, and in his adopted county he has become deservedly successful, his name being well known for miles around his immediate home. It would be interesting to know just what first planted the seed of ambition in a youth of this kind. Was it an environment in a country so crowded that making a living became a difficult task; was it the advice of friends that drove him later to America, or was it love of adventure, a desire to know what kind of a world existed beyond the horizon of his sky? Whatever the motive, he came, and he brought with him those strong traits of character which are necessary to success in any country. He had not only physical strength, but energy, perseverance and faith in himself, and so it is not surprising that he should have risen to such a plane of prominence as to make this brief biography appropriate here.

William Miller was born on October 14, 1875, in Hesse Nassau, Germany, son of Henry and Kate (Dresher) Miller. It was not a little family circle into which he was born, for he was the sixth of seven children, supported by the work of their father who was a shoemaker, both he and his wife being hard-working Germans, born and brought up in the little town in which they reared their family. Both are now deceased. They not only had care for the things of this world, but brought up their children in the

fear of the Lord, and early led their little brood into the church of their choice, the Lutheran. There were born to these pious, hard-working parents seven children, as follow: Henry, who remained in Germany, and followed the trade of his father; Conrad, who came to this country, married Bertha Dittman, and became a farmer in Viola township, this county, and who died on November 1, 1908, his widow surviving him; Hartman, a farmer in Germany; Helen and Henry, also residents of Germany; William, the subject of this sketch, and Kate, who married Edward Roggish, of Manning, Iowa.

Owing to the excellence of the German school system, William Miller's education was above that of the average American boy of that day, similarly situated, although he did no more than attend the common schools. He was indeed a brave little fellow who could bid goodbye to mother, father, sisters and brothers, and start on the journey which was to separate him from them for many years, perhaps forever, and this he did at the tender age of fifteen. To be sure, he was to meet Conrad, his older brother, who had preceded him to the shores of America, but the journey was made alone. After living with this brother for awhile, William Miller started life for himself, by "working out" by the month on a neighboring farm, and he was thus employed for the following fourteen years.

On February 15, 1905, William Miller was united in marriage to Ida Berg, who was born in LaSalle county, Illinois, daughter of William M. and Ricky (Beckman) Berg, natives of Pommern, Germany, the former of whom was a son of Ludwig and Mary (Petersen) Berg, of Pommern, who, coming to America in 1880, located in La Salle county, Illinois, and farmed there until they moved to Audubon county in 1884, settling in Douglas township, where they spent the balance of their days. The children born to this union were as follows: Fred, who lives on the old homestead; William, father of Mrs. Miller; Ricky, who married James Blom, of Audubon, and Minnie, now Mrs. Graves, of Douglas township. The history of William Berg, father of Mrs. Miller, is interesting. Coming from Germany with his parents, he first "worked out" by the month in La Salle county, Illinois, then moving to Audubon county, he began the acquisition of land and now has four hundred acres of valuable land in Douglas township, a tract which he has extensively improved. He and his wife are the parents of six children, of whom Mrs. Miller is the eldest. The others are as follows: Minnie, who married Fred Holtz, of Douglas township; Emma, living at home; Lucy, who married Oluf Winther, of Audubon, this county; Lilly, who married Edward Holtz, and Frank, who lives at home

After his marriage, William Miller located on a farm one mile west of Audubon, where he and his wife lived for one year, at the end of which time they moved to Lincoln township, where they lived two years. In 1907 Mr. Miller bought what is known as the Peter Harmon place in section 4, Douglas township. Part of his success at least is due to the fact that Mr. Miller has been progressive in his ideas, and has made improvements as they became necessary. Besides engaging in general farming, he has raised mixed stock, Duroc-Jersey red hogs and draft horses.

To William and Ida (Berg) Miller two children have been born, William H. born on February 10, 1906, and Lillian Helen, January 7, 1909. Mr. and Mrs. Miller are members of the Lincoln Lutheran church, to which they have contributed not only of their time and of their warmest interest, but of their means. In his church activities as well as in matters pertaining to their livelihood, Mr. Miller's efforts have all been seconded by his good wife, who has ever been ready with encouragement and devotion, and with a practical mind and willing hands to aid him. Theirs is a home which attracts many friends, for these wide-awake, active people are regarded as among the prominent residents of that neighborhood.

Mr. Miller has not tied himself up to the principles of any one political party, but exercises his privilege of voting independently, being an ardent advocate of good local government and believing firmly that in local affairs men and not measures should be the good citizens' guide in the exercises of their franchise.

EDWARD DRYDEN.

Prominent in the affairs of Audubon county and distinguished as a citizen, whose influence extends beyond the community honored by his residence, the name of Edward Dryden stands out conspicuously among the successful farmers and stock breeders of Hamlin township. All of his undertakings have been actuated by noble motives and high resolves, characterized by breadth of wisdom and strong individuality. His success and achievements but represent the result of utilizing the talents with which he was endowed and in directing his efforts along those lines, where mature judgment and discrimination lead the way.

Edward Dryden was born on January 22, 1858, in Iowa City, Iowa. He is a son of John and Marguerite (Burns) Dryden, who were natives of Ireland, coming to the United States when young people and, subsequently,

they were married in New York. They were farmers by occupation and came west to Iowa in the early fifties. They were the parents of eight children, four of whom lived to maturity. Edward Dryden, the subject of this sketch was the eldest of those who lived to maturity and the fourth child born to his parents. He received a common school education. His father died when he was seventeen years old, and Edward then, being the eldest child took charge of the farm and with his brothers tended it until he was married. After his marriage, he lived on the home place for two years, and then removed to South Dakota, where he pre-empted a hundred and sixty acres of land in Charles Mix county. He lived in South Dakota for six years or until he had lost everything as a consequence of the drought. At the end of this time he sold his South Dakota land and came to Audubon county, Iowa, where he rented land for one year. During this same year, 1891, he sold hogs for three and one-fourth cents a pound, eggs for three cents a dozen, corn for fifteen and twenty cents and potatoes for fifteen cents a bushel.

In 1892 Mr. Dryden purchased a hundred and sixty acres of unimproved land in section 16, Hamlin township, paying fifteen dollars an acre for it. He has since built a good house, barn and other buildings, making it a well-improved farm at the present time. He also owns a section of land in the province of Alberta, Canada.

Mr. Dryden was married on December 21, 1883, to Mary B. Dimick, who was born on April 14, 1866, in Johnson county, Iowa, just south of Iowa City, and who is the daughter of John J. and Fannie (Mitchell) Dimick. They were natives of New Jersey and New York respectively, and came of old Yankee stock, and located in Iowa soon after their marriage. The mother died when Mr. Dryden's wife was thirteen years old. The father again married soon after this and thus kept the family together. In 1883 the family moved to Audubon county, Iowa, where he lived until his death. Mrs. Dimick died March 1, 1879. Mr. Dimick died on January 1, 1911. He was making his home with subject at the time of his death.

Mr. and Mrs. Dryden have had five children, four of whom are living. Of these children, Bert Floyd, born on June 16, 1885, married Nancy L. Layland and they were the parents of two children, Floyd Earnest, born on January 30, 1910, and Leon Merle, March 25, 1911. The mother of these children is now deceased. Ethel Melissa Dryden, who was born November 22, 1886, married August Nichol森 and they now live in Canada. Leroy Elmer, born on April 22, 1888, married Hattie Wright and they have one child, Dallas Leroy, born on August 20, 1914. Ethel Melissa, Leroy Elmer

and Bert Floyd were born in South Dakota; Fay Odessa was born on February 10, 1893, and died April 20, 1899; Merle, who was born May 2, 1896, married Lester Layland, on July 18, 1914. Since the death of the mother of Mr. Dryden's two grandchildren, he has taken them to rear.

Edward Dryden has his own threshing outfit, and uses his engine for plowing, running the corn shredder, etc. He has always been a progressive citizen and his ideas have done much towards building up an energetic spirit in this section of Audubon county.

Mr. Dryden is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the American Nobles. He is a Democrat, and has been elected to various offices, but not caring to hold these offices he refused and declined to act. The Dryden family are all members of the Congregational church and are active in the affairs of this church.

CHRIS HAHN.

Chris Hahn, one of the representative agriculturists and stock growers of this county, during the active period of his life, was known as one of the alert, progressive and successful farmers of this favored section of the Hawkeye state. In his labors he did not permit himself to follow in a blind rut in an apathetic way, but studied and experimented, and thus attained the maximum returns from his efforts. Mr. Hahn has so conducted himself at all times as to command the confidence and regard of the people of Audubon county, and is well known for his honorable business methods and for his keen, active and helpful interest in whatever tends to promote the public welfare.

Chris Hahn was born on December 25, 1843, in Grund-Hagen, Prussia, a son of Christof and Anna Hahn, the former of whom died when his son, Chris, was a mere lad. His widow afterwards married Christian Dreher, who came to America after Chris Hahn had emigrated to this country, and died in the United States. Mr. Hahn's step-father occupied a rented farm in Germany for fifteen years, and there Chris learned the rudiments of agriculture, as well as the thrifty and frugal habits of his German ancestors. He served his term in the German army, enlisting in November, 1866, and serving three years as a soldier. He participated in the Prussian-Austrian campaign of seven months, in 1866, and also served in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71, receiving his discharge on August 1, 1871, at which time he was

connected with the Fourth Regiment of Prussians. He was in the battles of Woerth, Dionville, Gravelotte, Beaumont, Strasburg, Metz, Amiens, Orleans, Montbellard, St. Quentin, Paris and Pontlieu. Mr. Hahn has two medals which he received for bravery in these wars. He was never wounded in battle during all his service.

In 1876, after the close of the war, Chris Hahn came to America and located at Atlantic, Iowa, where he was engaged in railroad construction work for three years. In 1877 he purchased eighty acres of raw prairie land in Leroy township, near Audubon, this county, and two years later, in 1879, he moved to the farm, on which he built a house. This land cost him eight dollars an acre, and in 1880 he bought eighty acres adjoining his first purchase, for which he paid nineteen dollars an acre, and in 1881, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres more at the same price, nineteen dollars an acre. For these latter purchases he went heavily in debt, paying out from year to year. In 1891 Mr. Hahn bought another tract of one hundred and sixty acres, for which he paid twenty-five dollars an acre, and in 1890 he purchased still another tract of one hundred and sixty acres at forty-one dollars an acre. In 1902 Mr. Hahn purchased five acres, located in Audubon, paying for the same twenty-five hundred dollars, and moved to this tract, where he erected a splendid house in which he now lives. In 1912 Mr. Hahn bought eighty acres two and one-half miles southwest of Audubon, paying one hundred and fifty dollars an acre for it. He spent two years in Canada, 1907-8, where he bought a section of land. This land has been improved and he has now turned it over to his sons.

On November 14, 1873, three years before coming to this country, Chris Hahn was married to Charlotte Wohlgamuth, who was born on August 29, 1845, a daughter of Foergen and Elizabeth (Porsch) Wolgamouth, who lived all their lives in their native land of Germany. To this union the following children were born: Gustav, Paulina, Hannah, Emma, Herman, Zelma and Ella. Gustav lives in Canada, and is the owner of a section and a half of land there. He married Margaretta Klever, and they are the parents of seven children, six daughters and one son; Ella and Emma (twins), Hildegarde, Christ, Ethel, Mabel and Helen. Paulina is the wife of Chris Klever. They live in Audubon county and have one child, Herman. Ramon died at the age of seven months. Hannah is the wife of Charles Brown. They live in Canada, and the parents of five children, Walter, Zelma, Alice, Arthur and Charlotte. Zelma is the wife of William Mantz, and they are also residents of Canada. They have one child, Clarke. Emma died at the age of two years and three months. Ella was killed on the railroad at the

age of one year and eight months. Harmon was killed by a horse at the age of eighteen. Since coming to this country Mr. Hahn has been identified with the Democratic party, but he is more or less independent in his voting, supporting measures and men rather than political emblems. He and his wife and family are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church, in whose welfare they are deeply interested, and to the support of which they are liberal contributors.

WALKUP M. CREES.

The office of biography is not to give voice to a man's modest opinion of himself and his accomplishments, but rather to leave upon record the verdict of his neighbors and fellow citizens. Touching upon the life history of Walkup M. Crees, a well-known farmer of Hamilton township, Audubon county, Iowa, it is sought to avoid fulsome encomium and extravagant praise. Nevertheless, there should be held up for the consideration of the reader, those facts which have shown the earmarks of a true, useful and honorable life, a life characterized by perseverance, energy, broad charity and well-defined purpose. Walkup M. Crees being a man of this type, is admired by his neighbors and respected by a large circle of friends.

Walkup M. Crees was born on March 22, 1864, in Muscatine county, Iowa. He is the son of Joel and Catherine (Hines) Crees. They were natives of Ohio, coming west to Iowa when very young with their parents. They located in Cass county, Iowa, and in 1885 they came to Audubon county, locating north and west of Exira, in which vicinity they lived until their death. They were the parents of ten children, five sons and five daughters, of whom Walkup M. Crees was the second child.

Walkup M. Crees received a limited country school education. He lived at home until he was married and then rented land until 1907 when he purchased seventy-nine acres of land in section 15 of Hamlin township where he now lives. In 1908 Mr. Crees was elected sheriff of Audubon county and after his election, moved to Audubon, where he lived for four years moving back to the farm in 1913 after the expiration of his term of office. As the sheriff of Audubon county, Mr. Crees performed the duties of this responsible office in a highly satisfactory and creditable manner. It is the verdict of the people of Audubon county that he was one of the best sheriffs that the county ever had.

On January 30, 1889, Mr. Crees was married in Audubon county to

Julia E. Dimick, who was born on January 21, 1871, in Johnson county, Iowa. She is the daughter of John J. and Fannie (Mitchell) Dimick. It is thought they were natives of New York and New Jersey, respectively. They came to Audubon county about 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Crees are the parents of five children, Beatrice, born on October 14, 1892; Charles, June 12, 1895; Cecil J., February 23, 1900; Everett, August 2, 1903; and Fred, December 30, 1906. All of these children live at home.

The Crees family is of Dutch and Irish descent and the Dimicks are of old Yankee stock. W. M. Crees' mother, Catherine (Hines) Crees, died on February 6, 1905, and her husband died on March 18, 1908. Mrs. Crees' mother died on March 1, 1879, and her father died on January 1, 1911.

Mr. Crees is now engaged in general farming and stock raising. He keeps an excellent quality of live stock and has been very successful in raising them for the market.

Mr. Crees is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America, and is a Democrat in politics. Although the principal office which Mr. Crees has held is that of sheriff, he has served as clerk of Greeley township and assessor of Hamlin township. He is well thought of by his neighbors and friends, and his repeated election to public offices is the best testimonial in support of the generous esteem in which he is held by his fellow citizens.

PETER MADSEN.

Any vocation, whether humble or exalted, may produce a satisfactory measure of success if enterprise, industry and well-directed purpose guide the individual in his pursuit of success. In no case is this fact more apparent than in farming. It is a well authenticated fact that success is the result of well-applied energy, determination, perseverance and good judgment. When a course of action is once decided upon, these attributes are essential to success, and those who diligently seek her favors ever receive her blessing. Peter Madsen, the subject of this sketch, is one of the well-known and successful farmers of Hamlin township and his success has been achieved by traveling no royal road. Industry and good management have been the keynote to his success.

Peter Madsen was born on January 7, 1840, in Jylland, Denmark. He

is the son of Mads and Sisse (Nelson) Madsen, also natives of Jylland, Denmark, where the father was a farm laborer.

Peter Madsen lived at home until 1862, at which time he had to join the army. He served two and one-half years in the war between Prussia and Austria, but was never wounded nor taken prisoner, though he saw some of the hardest fighting in this war. In 1870 Mr. Madsen came to the United States, landing at New York city, and after spending a short time in that city, he came directly to Atlantic, Cass county, Iowa. At that time, Atlantic just had one store, a hotel and a few houses. Mr. Madsen had fifty dollars in money when he arrived at Atlantic. He first got work on a farm where he remained for three months, when he got work on the section of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad. Mr. Madsen worked at this job at Atlantic until the spring and then went back to Wilton, where he helped to build a branch of the railroad down into the state of Missouri. In the spring of 1871, Mr. Madsen came to Atlantic again and purchased forty acres of land in Shelby county, paying ten dollars an acre for it, and here he lived for nine years. In the meantime, his family grew larger, so that in 1880 he purchased eighty acres in section 3 of Hamlin township, where he now lives. It was without buildings, although seventy acres of it had already been broken with the plow, and there were no roads nor no schools. Two years later, Mr. Madsen sold the township one acre of land, receiving twenty-five dollars for it, and after this there was a school near his house. Before that, one of the neighbors had given one room in his house for the purpose of conducting a school.

One year after Mr. Madsen came to the United States, his future wife, Johanna Conradene Johansen, came to this country. She was born on December 10, 1848, in Jylland, Denmark, and was the daughter of Lars and Mary Johansen. Peter Madsen and Johanna C. Johansen were married in Princeton, Missouri, October 7, 1871. She died in July, 1886, leaving eight children, Jens C., who is unmarried and lives in Hamlin township; Peterena Mary, deceased, who married Peter Paulsen and had two children, Conradene and Marie; Lawrence M., who married Marie Petersen and has six children, Dena, Anna, Peter, Edna, Laura and Jens; Cecelia, deceased, married Walter Jensen and had three children, Martha, Helena and Elsie; Johanna M., who is unmarried and is now a patient in the hospital at Clarinda, Iowa; Lora, who lives in Washington, married Chris Sorrensen and has three children, Mary, Gladys and Helena; Peter, who is unmarried and lives in Elkhorn where he follows the butcher's trade; and Martha, who married Jens Andersen and has three children, Freda, Leo and Alice. Lawrence M. is now liv-

ing on the old home place and also tends forty acres which he owns near there. He was married on January 6, 1906.

Mr. Madsen has retired from active farming. He is a stockholder in the Elkhorn-Marne Telephone Company and is also a member of the West Hamlin Creamery Company, being one of the organizers of the latter. Peter Madsen is one of Hamlin township's first settlers and is, in truth, a pioneer of this section of the state.

Mr. Madsen is a Democrat and his son, Lawrence M., is also a Democrat. Mr. Madsen has held nearly all of the township offices, except assessor and clerk, and he has always taken an active part in local politics and his counsel is widely sought. The family are all members of the Danish Lutheran church.

ANTON NELSON.

Among the farmers of Audubon county, Iowa, who believe in following twentieth century methods, is Anton Nelson, of Hamlin township. Mr. Nelson comes from a splendid family, one that has always been foremost for right living and industrious habits, for education and morality and for all that contributes to the welfare of the commonwealth. Such people are welcome in any community, for they are empire builders and as such have pushed the frontier of civilization ever westward and onward, leaving the once green, wide-reaching wilderness and the far-stretching plains populous with contented people and beautiful with green fields. They have constituted that sterling horde which caused the great Bishop Whipple to write the memorable words, "Westward, the course of empire takes its way."

Anton Nelson was born on May 3, 1874, in Denmark, and is the son of Nels and Christina (Rasmussen) Nelson, both natives of Denmark. Nels Nelson was a painter by trade and Anton helped him at his trade until he was fourteen years old. Anton Nelson received a good, common-school education.

In 1893, or when Anton Nelson was nineteen years old, he came to the United States, landing at New York city, and came direct to Audubon county, where he had two brothers, H. C. and Nels J. Anton Nelson first worked by the month. He worked for six years but after working about four years, he purchased eighty acres of land where he now lives, but did not begin farming it himself until two years after he bought it. When Mr. Nelson was married, he moved to this farm and has lived there since that time. The farm was but poorly improved at the time and had only a small

three-roomed house for a residence. Mr. Nelson has since built a large eight-roomed house with halls, pantry and basement. Two large barns are now standing on the farm, one of which is fifty-two by fifty-six feet and the other thirty-six by fifty-two feet. Mr. Nelson has good hog houses, cribs, granaries, implement shed and garage. He has also added one hundred and twenty acres more to his farm and is, indeed, a progressive citizen.

On February 22, 1896, Anton Nelson was married at Audubon, Iowa, to Mary Aagaard, the daughter of Andrew Aagaard. Five children were born to this union, Nelson C., Mabel, Andrew, Martha and Tilda. The mother of these children died on February 18, 1910.

On May 11, 1912, Mr. Nelson was married to Thea Top in Chicago, Illinois. She was born in Denmark, May 12, 1885, and is the daughter of Hans and Hannah (Nelson) Top, both natives of Denmark, where her father was a laborer. Thea Top came to the United States in 1908. To this second union, two children, Hannah and Rosa, have been born.

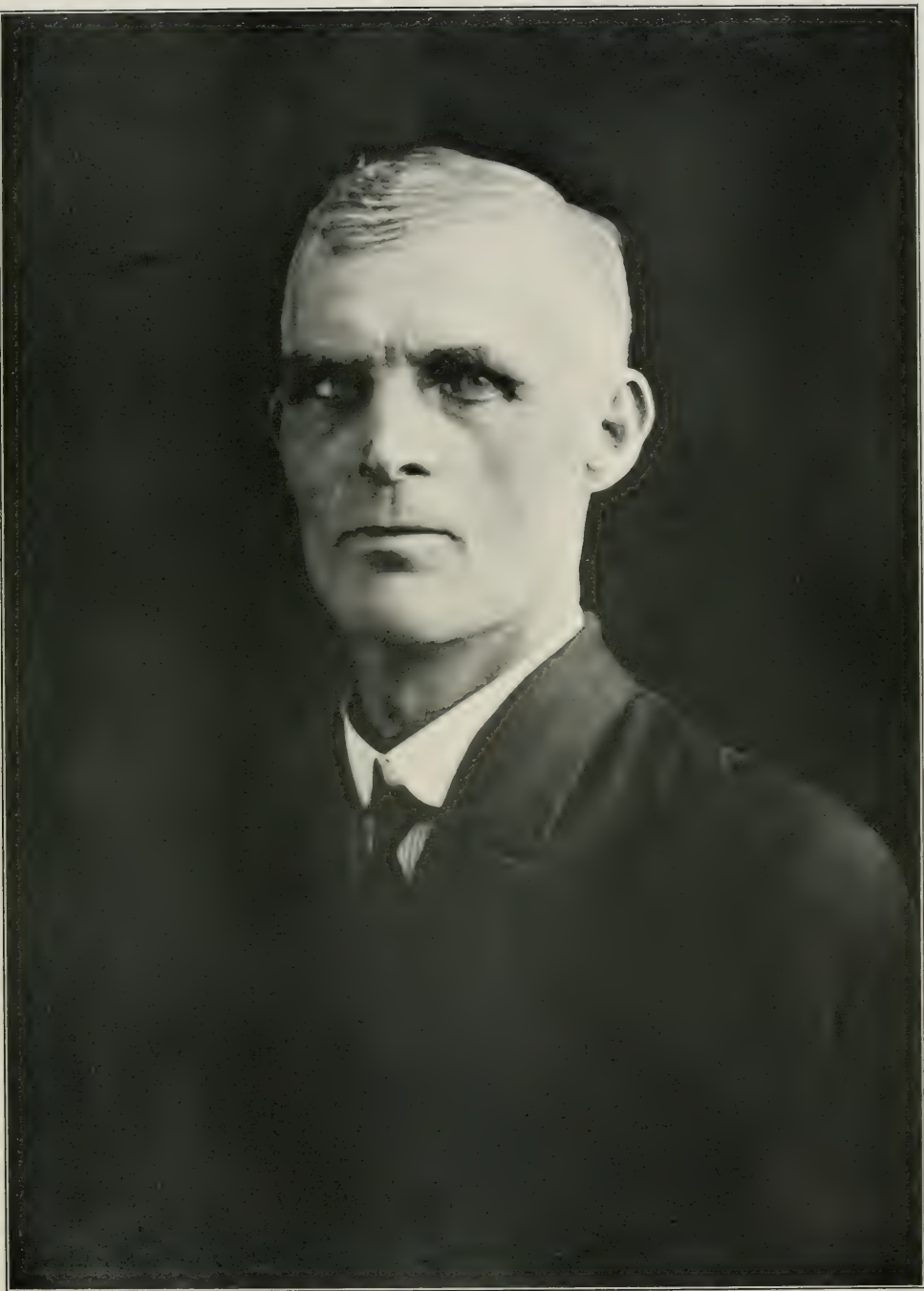
Mr. Nelson is a member of the Blue Grass Creamery Company and is assistant secretary of the organization. He assisted in the organization of the Farmers Savings Bank of Hamlin and is a director in this institution. He does general farming and stock raising and has been, as this brief record of his life will show, very successful as a farmer.

Mr. Nelson is a Republican, and is at present a school director, being keenly interested in the educational affairs of his township. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson and all the members of the family are identified with the Danish Lutheran church.

LARS C. CHRISTOFFERSEN.

In examining the life records of self-made men it will invariably be found that indefatigable industry has constituted the basis of their success. True, there are other elements that enter into and conserve the advancement of personal interests, such as perseverance, discrimination and the mastering of expedients, but the foundation of all achievement is earnest, persistent labor. At the outset of his career Lars C. Christoffersen recognized this fact and he has never sought any royal road to the goal of his ambition. He began to work earnestly and diligently in order to advance himself and the result is that he is now numbered among the progressive, successful and influential business men of Audubon county.

Lars C. Christoffersen was born in Denmark on October 17, 1861, the



LARS C. CHRISTOFFERSEN

son of Peter and Mette Christene (Larsen) Christoffersen, also natives of Denmark, the family being residents of the island known as Moen. Peter Christoffersen was a laborer and was the father of three children, Peter, Lars C. and Carrie C.

Lars C. Christoffersen lived at home until 1883, in which year he came to the United States, landing at New York City on May 23. His brother had preceded him seven years and had located in Illinois. Lars C. Christoffersen came direct to Audubon county, locating near Kimballton where two of his uncles had settled some years before. He first started to work by the month, but the corn crop was drowned out and he went to work on the section for the Chicago & Northwestern railroad. He later went to Illinois, where he worked for a short time, but soon came back to Audubon county, and spent the winter with one of his uncles. In the spring of 1884 he went back to Illinois, where for about two years he worked at various jobs. In February, 1886, he went to New York and lived there until 1888, working at various occupations. On New Year's day, 1888, he came back to Audubon county and has lived here since that time. His parents and sisters, who came to this country in the spring of 1889, also came west. After coming back to Audubon county, Mr. Christoffersen worked on the Chicago & Northwestern railroad section, a job entailing a great deal of hard work, as there were but two men to care for a section. After being thus employed for two years Mr. Christoffersen bought eighty acres of land near Kimballton and made a home there for his mother, his father having died in 1890. For nineteen years Mr. Christoffersen lived on this farm.

In 1908 Lars C. Christoffersen was elected recorder of Audubon county and filled that office very acceptably for four years, after which for six months he acted as deputy recorder. In the meantime he helped organize the Farmers Savings Bank at Hamlin and was elected cashier of the bank, a position he has filled since that time in a manner wholly acceptable not only to the directors of the bank, but to the large public served through this sound financial institution, he possessing the unbounded confidence of the entire community.

On December 26, 1895, at Atlantic, Iowa, Lars C. Christoffersen was married to Anna B. Rassmussen, who was born in Denmark, the daughter of Andrew and Anna (Scherning) Rassmussen, who came to the United States in the spring of 1892. To this union seven children have been born, four sons and three daughters, Hans, Alfred, Hazel, Leonard, Edwin, Ethel and Clara, all of whom are living at home. Mr. and Mrs. Christoffersen are

members of the Danish Lutheran church and their children have been reared in that faith.

Mr. Christoffersen is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Knights of Pythias and the Danish Brotherhood of America. He is a Democrat and when he was elected county recorder had a normal opposition of six hundred Republican majority and was not widely acquainted in the county, but he was elected by a majority of one hundred and nine votes. In campaigning he did not go east of the railroad tracks. Since moving to town, Mr. Christoffersen has sold his farm. The bank building is owned by the corporation of stockholders.

Although the most important public office which Mr. Christoffersen has held is that of county recorder he has held several township offices in Sharon township, among them that of justice of the peace, township trustee and township clerk, and for fourteen years was secretary of the school board. By virtue of his vocation he comes into touch with all the people of his township and is honored and respected by them. He is progressive in his ideas and this characteristic accounts for a very large measure of his success, he being regarded as one of the most enterprising and public-spirited citizens of Audubon county.

NELS MORTENSEN.

It cannot be other than interesting to note in the series of personal sketches appearing in this work, the varying conditions that have compassed those whose careers are here outlined. An efforts has been made in each case to throw well-focused light on the individuality and to bring into proper perspective the scheme of each career. Each man, who strives to fulfill his part in connection with human life and human activities, deserves recognition whatever may be his field of endeavor. It is the function of works of this nature to perpetuate for future generations an authentic record concerning those represented in these pages. The value of such publications is certain to be cumulative for all time to come, and will present the individual and specific accomplishment of each generation. Nels Mortensen is one of the well-known business men of Hamlin, Iowa, and he is entitled to rank as one of the representative citizens of this great county.

Nels Mortensen was born on May 10, 1883, in Audubon county, near Gray. He is a son of Nels and Carrie (Rattenborg) Mortensen, who were natives of an island possession of Denmark and Schleswig, respectively. The

island where Nels Mortensen was born was called Fyn. Nels Mortensen always worked on the farm, although his father, Morten Petersen, was a day laborer. The parents of Nels Mortensen came to the United States in 1881. They had four children who were born in Denmark, and Nels Mortensen was the eldest of five children born to his parents after they came to the United States.

Nels Mortensen attended the common schools of this county until he was twelve years of age and lived with his parents until his marriage. After his marriage, Mr. Mortensen rented a farm for one year, after which he purchased eighty acres of unimproved land. His wife was a school teacher, and for four years after their marriage she continued teaching in order to assist in paying for the improvements on their land, while Mr. Mortensen farmed and worked at any kind of labor to get ahead. In 1909 he sold his farm and purchased the hardware store belonging to Johnson & Carstensen, of Hamlin, Iowa, and here Mr. Mortensen has been engaged in business since that time.

On March 23, 1905, Nels Mortensen was married at Audubon, Iowa, by Rev. Mr. Cousins, to Cloe Petty. When three weeks old, Mrs. Mortensen was taken to be reared by her mother's parents, Joseph and Rebecca Redpath, and from that time was known by the name of Redpath. She is a graduate of the Audubon high school, and after leaving school, taught for six years, during this time having been engaged in teaching a single district, with the exception of two terms. Mr. Mortensen and wife are the parents of two children, both of whom are boys. George M. was born July 2, 1911. Harvey was born October 17, 1914.

Mr. Mortensen is a member of the Middle West Implement Dealers Association. He carries a large line of implements in connection with general hardware. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Savings Bank, of Hamlin, and was one of the leading factors in the organization of this financial institution.

Mr. Mortensen is a Democrat, but he is not a politician, and has never held office, nor has he ever aspired to office. Mr. and Mrs. Mortensen and family are members of the Lutheran church.

Mrs. Mortensen's grandfather was one of the first settlers in Audubon county, Iowa, paying one dollar and a quarter for one hundred and twenty-five acres of land near Audubon. This land grew in value from year to year, and is worth now a hundred times its original purchase price.

Nels Mortensen is one of the best known citizens of Hamlin township, Audubon county, Iowa. He is a man who has always been scrupulous in his

dealings with the public and has built up an enviable reputation in a business way in this section of Audubon county. He is entitled to the liberal patronage he enjoys, as his business has been founded upon right dealing and good business management.

WILHELM C. OLSEN.

Practical industry, wisely and vigorously applied, never fails to bring success. It carries a man onward and upward and brings out his individual character and acts as a powerful stimulant to the efforts of others. The greatest results in life are often attained by simple means, and the exercise of the ordinary qualities of common sense and perseverance. The everyday life with its cares, necessities and duties, affords ample opportunity for acquiring experience of the best kind, and its most beaten paths provide a true worker with abundant scope for effort and self-improvement. Wilhelm C. Olsen, one of the well-known farmers of Hamlin township, Audubon county, Iowa, throughout his entire life, has been industrious, frugal and judicious in the management of his agricultural enterprises.

Wilhelm C. Olsen was born on October 6, 1862, in Denmark, the son of Christian J. and Dora (Olsen) Jensen. Christian J. Olsen was a blacksmith in Denmark and followed that occupation all his life. He was the father of five children: Christ, Annena, Anna, Dora and Wilhelm C.

Mr. Olsen lived at home until he reached the age of eighteen years. In June, 1881, he came to the United States, landing at New York harbor. He had an uncle in Shelby county, Iowa, and made the trip with the intention of returning to his native country, but did not do so. He came to Shelby county, Iowa, where his uncle lived at that time, and worked out by the month on the farms in that county for five years. He then rented land for eighteen years, and in 1901 he purchased a farm just north of Exira, where he lived for four years, and then sold it and purchased fifty-three acres in Hamlin township, adjoining the town of Hamlin. Mr. Olsen has greatly improved this farm and has made a remarkable success of his chosen vocation.

On January 9, 1886, Mr. Olsen was married in Shelby county, Iowa, to Mary C. Jacobsen, who was born on January 3, 1869, in Kellogg, Jasper county, Iowa. Mrs. Olsen is a daughter of Andrew and Dora (Kock) Jacobsen, who were natives of Denmark. Mr. and Mrs. Olsen are the parents of four children: Dorothy, born on October 1, 1887, married Jacob Jacobsen, and they have three children, Hans, William and Mae; Ella, born on Novem-

ber 27, 1888, married Fritz Nissen, and they are the parents of four children, Elmer, Regina, Ellanora and Daisy; Ellanora, born on May 3, 1891, married John Petersen; Victor William, born on June 29, 1904, is living at home with his parents.

Mrs. Olsen's father, Andrew Jacobsen, drove oxen through to Iowa when he came west and after arriving in this state, used them for farming purposes. He was one of the pioneer farmers of Shelby county, Iowa, and was well known in that county, where he lived for so many years.

Wilhelm C. Olsen is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and also of the Danish Brotherhood, to which order he has been attached for more than twenty years. In politics he is mostly independent, but leans toward the principles of the Democratic party, especially in national affairs. Mr. Olsen is not a politician in any sense of the word, and has never held office, nor has he ever aspired to office, preferring to devote his attention to his home and his family and his farm. The members of the family are identified with the Danish Lutheran church, and are active in the affairs of this denomination, not only in the church, but also in the Sunday school, and are liberal contributors to the support of the church.

DAN E. LARSEN.

Among the citizens of Hamlin township, Audubon county, Iowa, who have built up comfortable homes and surrounded themselves with valuable personal and real property, few have attained a higher degree of success than Dan E. Larsen, a well-known farmer of this county. With few opportunities except what his own efforts were capable of mastering and with many discouragements to overcome, he has made an exceptional success in life. Although a comparatively young man, Mr. Larsen has the gratification of knowing that the community in which he resides has been benefited by his presence and by his counsels. Mr. Larsen is descended from a well-known Danish family of this state and one which has been foremost in the civic, political and social life of Audubon county for many years.

Dan Larsen was born on July 17, 1883, in Lincoln township, Shelby county, Iowa. He is the son of Lars E. and Sena (Christensen) Larsen, who were natives of Denmark, and came from a district known as Jylland, which is near Germany. They arrived in the United States about 1870, and subsequently located north of Avoca, near Cuppy's Grove. They lived in

Shelby county for a few years and later purchased new prairie land, getting their start in life as most early settlers did. Lars C. Larsen was first married to Christine Christensen, a sister of his second wife, and by this union there were five children. After his first wife's death, he married Sena Christensen and had five children by this marriage, of whom Dan E. was the second child and the eldest son, his sister, Sophia, being older than he.

Dan E. Larsen received a good education, having attended the Elkhorn College, the academy at Stewart, Iowa, and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. His father was a well-informed man and not only was a firm believer in education but was progressive along all other lines.

With the exception of one year which Dan E. Larsen rented land and boarded, he lived at home. The year before he was married, he rented eighty acres and cultivated until the fall when he operated a corn sheller. In June, 1906, he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in section 30 of Hamlin township, which was only partly improved and he has since added to the improvements a modern eight-roomed house, large barn, cribs, cattle sheds, garage, etc. The farm is one of the best improved in Audubon county and the house is by far the most modern and best constructed within a radius of several miles.

On February 20, 1907, Mr. Larsen was married to Edith Christensen, who was born December 9, 1886, in Oakfield township, Audubon county, Iowa. She is the daughter of Nels and Christina (Hansen) Christensen, natives of Denmark. Her father came to the United States in 1869, when seventeen years old, from Jylland and her mother came from Fynn, Denmark, in 1874, when eleven years old. Nels Christensen was killed in 1913 in an automobile accident and the mother died in May, 1914.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan E. Larsen are the parents of two sons, Floyd, born on February 24, 1910, and Harvey, born on April 13, 1912.

Mr. Larsen does general farming and stock raising. He feeds from one to two carloads of cattle each year and about sixty head of hogs. His family and his farm are his principal interests.

Mr. Larsen's father was killed in a runaway when Dan E. was six years old. He had just come from church and the minister was with him wearing a fur overcoat. The horses became frightened at the appearance of the coat and, bolting, threw Mr. Larsen out, killing him instantly. Mr. Larsen's mother, a few years later, married Peter Knudsen. It is a coincidence that Mrs. Larsen's grandfather on her mother's side was also accidentally killed by falling from a building. Her uncle in Denmark was killed in a runaway accident soon after the death of Mr. Larsen's father. It seems that the

family has been particularly unfortunate in suffering so many fatal accidents.

Dan E. Larsen is a Republican, although he has not held office and does not consider himself a politician. Mr. Larsen and family are members of the Seventh-Day Adventist church and are active in church circles. Mr. Larsen is a clean-cut, progressive citizen of Hamlin township and a man of sterling integrity.

THOMAS CHRISTENSEN.

Audubon county is indebted perhaps to the Christensen family as much as to any other, for its wondrous transformation to one of the choicest sections of the Hawkeye state. The members of this family have been leaders in agricultural, industrial and civic affairs since the early days. Each with a fidelity to duty and a persistency of purpose peculiar to the class of men who take a lead in large affairs, they have performed well their duties in all of the relations of life. While they have advanced their own interests, they have not been unmindful of the general welfare of their fellow citizens. Thus, the Christensen family rightly deserves a place in the history of this locality and among the well-known members of this family is Thomas Christensen, a successful farmer of Hamlin township.

Thomas Christensen was born on November 2, 1855, in Jylland, Denmark. He is the son of Chris M. and Anna (Thompson) Christensen, natives of the same locality as their son, Thomas. They were farmers and the parents of four children, of whom Thomas was the eldest.

Thomas Christensen lived at home until he was old enough to work, when he was then hired out by his parents. In 1880 he came to the United States, landing at New York city, coming thence to Cass county, Iowa, but he did not stay long in this county before coming on to Audubon county. Mr. Christensen had no relatives or friends in the United States and was a total stranger. He first worked out for seven years and then rented land for ten or twelve years, and about 1900 he purchased eighty acres of land as a start. He has added to this land until he now owns two hundred and forty acres in the home place, which is located in section 19 of Hamlin township. Mr. Christensen also has eighty acres in section 18 of Hamlin township. The farm is well improved and Mr. Christensen is one of the largest landholders in Hamlin township.

Thomas Christensen was married on February 15, 1888, in Audubon to Sena C. Christiansen, who was born on March 7, 1868, in Schleswig, Ger-

many, and who is the daughter of Nels C. and Bodel C. (Wind) Jensen, who were also born in Schleswig. Her father was a tailor by trade and lived in the town of Arnutland. He died when Mrs. Christensen was a small child and her mother later married again. In the spring of 1880 the family came to the United States, arriving on May 1, 1880, at Atlantic, Iowa, where they remained but a short time, subsequently moving to Elkhorn in Shelby county, where they lived until 1883. They then moved to Sharon township, Audubon county, where they lived until about 1905, when they retired and moved to Elkhorn.

To Thomas and Sena Christensen thirteen children have been born, nine of whom are living: Chris M., born on March 26, 1889; Nels S., July 8, 1890; Anna C., November 19, 1891; William H., September 27, 1893; Adolph, August 19, 1897; Agnes S., June 3, 1901; Henry H., October 23, 1904; Edith E., January 4, 1907; and Myrtle S., November 3, 1909. All of these children live at home. The other four children died in infancy.

Mr. Christensen does general farming and stock raising, and has applied himself diligently to dairying and at the present time milks about twenty cows on the home farm.

Mr. Christensen and family are all members of the Danish Lutheran church. He is a Republican but is not a politician and has never held office. Nevertheless, he has done much to advance the social and civic life of Hamlin township and is known today as one of its most substantial citizens.

CLARK WILSON.

Clark Wilson needs no introduction to the people of Audubon county. He is recognized as one of the best-known citizens of this county, having served for many years as custodian of the Audubon county court house. He is a man, who, by his many commendable qualities and honorable career, has enjoyed for a long time a favorable place in the hearts of the people of this county. It is eminently proper that attention be called to his life and career and due credit be accorded to him as one of the best-known citizens of Audubon county.

Clark Wilson was born on February 6, 1844, in Belmont county, Ohio, a son of Thomas M. and Mary (Richards) Wilson, natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio, respectively. The record of the Wilson family runs back to 1727, and shows that the family originated near Belfast, Ireland. Thomas M. Wilson, who was a cooper by trade, came to this country in the late seventies,

locating on a farm at Hamlin, in this county, where he spent the remainder of his life. Thomas M. and Mary (Richards) Wilson were the parents of the following children: Andrew, a resident of Decatur county, Iowa; Jonathan, deceased; Robert, living in Washington; Clark, the immediate subject of this sketch; J. Calvin, of Des Moines, Iowa; Abner, deceased, who was a resident of Oskaloosa, Iowa; Harris, of Guthrie county, Iowa; Mrs. Mary Miles, of Kansas City; Mrs. Josephine Lefler, a resident of this county; Sarah Margaret, deceased, and Elizabeth, also deceased.

In October, 1856, Clark Wilson came to Iowa with his parents, who located in Mahaska county, where the father worked at his trade in connection with farming. On August 10, 1862, Clark Wilson enlisted for service in the Union army in Company C, Thirty-third Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war, being mustered out on July 7, 1865, at New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Wilson participated in many severe engagements during his service, including those of Helena, Arkansas; Little Rock, Arkansas; Meridian, Mississippi; Jenkins Ferry and the siege of Mobile. He was with his company from the beginning to the end of the war, and was never wounded. For five months he was orderly and dispatch carrier at the brigade headquarters of Colonel Solomon. Mr. Wilson's first regimental commander was Col. Samuel A. Rice, and later his regiment was commanded by Col. Cyrus H. Mackey. From Mobile the regiment marched to Clarksville, Texas, to be ready for the invasion of Mexico. It was held there for a while and then was ordered back to New Orleans and sent to Rock Island, and there was finally paid off and discharged, arriving home on August 10, 1865.

After the close of the war, Mr. Wilson became a blacksmith and worked at this trade for thirty years at Hamlin, Iowa, and Sedalia, Missouri. He came to Audubon county from Sedalia in March, 1889, and operated a blacksmith shop at Hamlin until 1905, when he was appointed custodian of the court house and moved to Audubon, the county seat.

On April 6, 1868, Clark Wilson was married to Belle Neeley, of Sedalia, Missouri, who was born in 1849 in Ohio, a daughter of James M. Neeley, and to this union eight children have been born, namely: William C., of Audubon; Clark Elmer, of Audubon; Mrs. Anna Belle Campbell, of Melville township; Mrs. Mary Bedella White, of Dickinson county, Iowa; Mrs. Maud Ethel Armstrong, who lives near Coon Rapids, Guthrie county, Iowa; Ida, the deceased wife of L. J. Ward; Mrs. Josephine Owen, widow of George E. Owen, of this county, and Vera, who is still at home with her parents.

Mr. Wilson has always been an ardent Republican and is warmly interested in the political affairs of the county. He and his wife and family are all members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Wilson is a member of Allison Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and is a past commander of that post.

WILLIAM SCHRADER.

It is unquestioned that the example set by thrifty German citizens has been very beneficial not only to our native Americans but to the citizens of all other countries as well. Iowa was fortunate in the days before the war, and even after the war, in attracting many thousands of good Germans to her borders, and among the many German families coming to this state is that of the Schraders, of whom William Schrader is one.

William Schrader, a retired farmer now living at Audubon, Iowa, was born on February 18, 1847, in the village of Rosnow, in Pommern, Germany, the son of August and Phillopena (Karl) Schrader. August Schrader died in 1864 and the mother brought her family of five boys to America. They settled in Wichter, Poweshiek county, Iowa, on August 9, 1869, and there they lived for some time. These five sons were August, who lives in Audubon; Wilhelm, also of Audubon; Albert, of Poweshiek county; Herman, also of Poweshiek county, and Henry, who was killed by lightning. The mother of these sons died on March 23, 1875, at the age of fifty years, seven months and thirty days.

William Schrader was twenty-three years old when he came to America and for three years following his arrival in this country he worked for his uncle, Frederick Karl, who died in the spring of 1914. After his marriage, in 1871, he moved to a rented farm which was owned by his uncle, and after renting land for eight years, purchased one hundred and six and two-tenths acres of land in Poweshiek county, this state, on which he resided until 1895, in which year he sold out and came to Audubon county, where he purchased two hundred and forty acres in Viola township, at a cost of nine thousand one hundred dollars, to which he later added forty acres, now owning two hundred and eighty acres, besides which he has six acres in Audubon, including six lots on which he has lived since 1908, his home being one of the finest in the town.

On October 14, 1871, William Schrader was married to Rosa Stepler, who was born in Iowa and who died on January 4, 1884, leaving five chil-

dren, Albert, now deceased, who married Augusta Horning; Emma, now deceased; Mary, who is the wife of Fred Tessman, of Viola township, and has five children, Lydia, William, Archie, Inez and Clarence; Wilhelm, now deceased, who married May Ballou and had one child, Albert; Henry, deceased.

On December 17, 1884, Mr. Schrader married, secondly, Emma Possehn, who was born in Germany and who came to America with her parents, and to this union five children were born, as follow: Edward, who lives in Colorado, married Alice Green and has two children, Marvin and Winston; Ludwich, who died in infancy; Otto, who lives in Colorado; Arthur, who operates an automobile garage in Audubon, and Eva, who is at home.

Mr. Schrader has never been especially active in politics, although he has been identified with the Republican party and has served as a member of the school board. The Schrader family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and William Schrader is prominent in the affairs of that church. There are no better citizens to be found in Audubon county than William Schrader and few who have done more to convert a dreary prairie into fertile and productive farming lands. He is a worthy citizen and is recognized as such by his neighbors and fellow townsmen.

WILLIAM H. COVAULT.

Among the pioneer farmers of Audubon county, Iowa, who came to this county early in its history, when the most of the land was in a thoroughly wild state, and when there were few inhabitants living in the county, is William E. Covault, a prosperous farmer who owns two hundred and forty acres of land in Greeley township, and who was born on September 29, 1847, in Miami county, Ohio, the son of Isaac A. and Elizabeth (Linton) Covault, who were natives of Miami county, Ohio, and farmers by occupation. Isaac Covault was a son of Isaiah and Betsy Covault, who, it is believed, were both born in Virginia. Although Mr. Covault first came to the state of Iowa in 1869 and lived for a time in Cedar county, Iowa, after which he moved to Poweshiek county, where he lived for five years, he then went back to Ohio, and after a residence there of five years, returned to Iowa in the fall of 1879, arriving in Audubon county in September, of that year. At the time he first purchased his farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Greeley town-

ship, it was well improved for the times, having a house sixteen by twenty feet, containing one room, although there was no lath nor plaster. The barn, which was a crude affair, fourteen by sixteen feet, held four horses. By prodigious industry, careful management and wise planning, Mr. Covault has improved the farm and buildings and now owns one of the best tracts of land in Greeley township.

Mr. Covault lived at home until he was married, and the educational opportunities of his neighborhood being limited, he was not able to pursue his studies far. In September, 1869, he came west to Cedar county, but remained there only one year, removing to Poweshiek county, but after his return from Ohio, in the fall of 1879, he has lived on his farm in Greeley township continuously since, with the exception of five years which he and his wife spent in Exira. When he and his family first came to Greeley township, there were few settlers in the neighborhood, his nearest neighbor being John Huston, one-fourth mile south of the Covault farm, and from the Huston place to Exira, there was only one other house. Mr. Covault has since added to his farm and now has two hundred and forty acres in Greeley township and eighty across the line in Guthrie county, Iowa.

On January 3, 1869, William H. Covault was married in Miami county, Ohio, to Harriet Jane Ralston, who was born on January 22, 1850, in Miami county, and who is a daughter of Allen and Mary (Welchhans) Ralston, also natives of Miami county, Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Covault have had eight children: Elmer A., who married Agnes Baker, and they have three children, Elva, Clyde and Hazel; Harry A. married Maggie Flynn, and they have two children, Wilbur and Owen; Charles married Mattie Wire, and they have three children, Silva, Elizabeth and Leota; Della, the wife of Edward Flynn, has three children, Roy, Ralph and Lloyd; Isaac died at the age of twenty-three years; Effie became the wife of Chester Adair, and has four children, Guy, Esther, Wayne and Bernice; William Roy married Annie Goochey, and they have six children, Ruth, Ethel, Eunice, Joseph, Mamie and Glenn; Bertha is the wife of Chelsea Adair, and has three children, Florence, Maxine and Don. Mr. and Mrs. Covault also has one great-grandchild, Lois Hadley, the daughter of Carl and Elva Hadley, the latter of whom is a daughter of Mr. Covault's son, Elmer A.

Although Mr. Covault was a member of the Christian church in Ohio, he has never united with any church since coming to Audubon county. He has given his support freely to all religious denominations which hold services in his vicinity. He is a Democrat and served not only as constable for sev-

eral years and assessor of Greeley township for one term, but also served as deputy sheriff of Audubon county for four years.

William H. Covault as a pioneer citizen, and one of the early settlers of Audubon county, has been connected with almost every phase of the progress, prosperity and growth of Audubon county for a period of nearly forty years. He has seen the county transformed from a wild and uncultivated prairie into a garden teeming with the good things of life and the men who have had a part in this wonderful transformation are entitled to the respect of the present generation and much credit is due for their unselfish service. One of these men is Mr. Covault, who is a man of high standing in his community, honored, earnest and cordial in his dealings with the people of his neighborhood and county.

HENRY C. PETERSEN.

Any person who will investigate the fact will be surprised to learn of the great number of people of Danish descent now living in the state of Iowa. Unquestionably, the greatest number of immigrants who reach the shores of the New World is of Teutonic origin and statistics show that there is more Teutonic blood in the United States than of any other country. It is, therefore, not difficult to account for the prosperity and morality of this country; not only this, but it will afford an explanation for the love of learning shown by the people of this vast country. The little kingdom of Denmark is famous for its universities and its highly-educated men. The qualities which characterize the native Danes have been brought to this country by the immigrants and are now a part of our wonderful country and have contributed to the progress and advancement of its material and social life.

Henry C. Petersen, a well-known farmer of Hamlin township, Audubon county, Iowa, was born on March 22, 1881, in Clay township, Shelby county, Iowa. He is the son of Mads P. and Sophia (Christensen) Petersen, both of whom were born in Denmark, in the part known as Moen. Mads P. Petersen came to the United States when eighteen years old, and first located in Illinois, where he worked for some time and then came to Shelby county, Iowa, and purchased eighty acres of land about 1879. Henry C. Petersen was one of two children, the other being George P. His parents later adopted a girl, Bertha Mary Jensen.

Henry Petersen received a good common school education in the public

schools of Iowa. He lived at home until twenty-four years of age and then married. After his marriage, he moved to his present farm in Hamlin township. His father having first purchased one hundred and twenty acres, Henry C. later purchased eighty acres more.

Henry C. Petersen was married on September 28, 1904, in Elkhorn, Shelby county, Iowa, to Sena S. Jorgensen, who was born on March 15, 1883, in Clay township, Shelby county, Iowa. She was the daughter of Peter and Christina (Nelsen) Jorgensen, natives of Fynn, Denmark. Mr. and Mrs. Petersen have had three children, Violet, born on July 1, 1905; Clyde, June 7, 1908, and Irene, June 4, 1911.

Henry C. Petersen was a Republican, but he has never been active in politics, and, for that reason, has never held any offices. In fact, Mr. Petersen is not interested in politics, but is interested in his family, his home and his farm, and to these interests he devotes practically all of his attention. The family are members of the Danish Lutheran church at Exira.

Mr. Petersen is engaged in general farming and stock raising. He is a stockholder in the Elkhorn-Marne Telephone Company and the West Hamlin Creamery Company. He undoubtedly deserves to rank as one of Hamlin township's progressive farmers and wide-awake, up-to-date citizens. He is popular with his neighbors and enjoys their universal esteem and confidence.

PETER N. LAURIDSEN.

Among the successful farmers of Hamlin township, Audubon county, Iowa, is Peter N. Lauridsen, who was born on March 25, 1866, in Jylland, Denmark, the son of Neils and Dorothy (Bogard) Lauridsen, farmers in Denmark, who never came to this country.

After attending school until fifteen years of age, Peter N. Lauridsen worked out as a farm hand until 1893, when he came to the United States, and after landing at New York city, came to Minton, Nebraska. After living there only eight or nine months, he came to Marne, Iowa, where he lived for one year, and in 1895 came to Audubon county. Here he worked for the West Hamlin Creamery Company for about four years, after which he purchased forty acres of land in Sharon township, Audubon county, where he lived for three years. After disposing of this farm he bought eighty acres of land in Hamlin township, where he lived for three years, or until the spring of 1904, when he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land

in section 21, of Hamlin township, where he now lives; in the meantime Mr. Lauridsen had sold his other land.

On November 5, 1888, Peter N. Lauridsen was married to Marguerite Petersen, a sister of Hans Petersen, of Exira. She is a daughter of K. S. and Carrie (Sorensen) Petersen, both natives of Denmark, the former of whom was a veteran of the Danish-Prussian War of 1864, and a farmer in his native land. At the time this war broke out, he was living on the Danish-Prussian border, and served throughout the war. He died in 1886, while his wife passed away several years previously, in 1879. They were the parents of ten children, seven of whom are now living: Peter K., Christina, Marguerite, Soren, Hans P., Minnie and Chris. All of these children, except Christina and Minnie, are living in America.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter N. Lauridsen are the parents of twelve children, ten of whom are still living: Charles, born on January 14, 1890; Dorothy, May 14, 1891, is the wife of Chris Johnson, and they have two children, Violet and Milo; Nels, November 9, 1893; Harry, October 28, 1894; Carrie, December 28, 1897; Henry, December 7, 1898; Rosa, January 5, 1902; Anna, December 1, 1904; Dagmar, November 1, 1906, and Edna, January 29, 1910.

In addition to his farming interests, Mr. Lauridsen also works a part of the time in the creamery at Elkhorn, in Shelby county, Iowa. He milks about ten cows and is engaged in general farming and stock raising.

The Lauridsen family are active and devoted members of the Danish Lutheran church. Mr. Lauridsen is a Republican, but has never held any offices, nor has he aspired to office. He is an enterprising and industrious citizen and entitled to the confidence and respect which are extended to him in unusual degree by his neighbors. He is a worthy representative of the great body of Danish farmers living in Audubon county, Iowa, who have helped to develop this county into one of the foremost agricultural counties of the state.

FRED J. WAHLERT, JR.

One of the most extensive farmers in Greeley township, Audubon county, Iowa, who is at present engaged in farming three hundred and twenty acres of land, comprising the home farm of his father, and who makes a specialty of raising thoroughbred Norman horses, is Fred J. Wahlert, Jr., who was born on December 18, 1875, in Hancock county, Illinois. He is the son of Fred, Sr., and Amy (Polm) Wahlert, natives of Germany, who came from the province of Holstein.

Fred Wahlert, Sr., who was born on March 29, 1840, is the son of John and Arsby (Starmonn) Wahlert, natives of Schleswig-Holstein. He came to America at the age of twenty-six years in 1866 and, after working at various occupations in the state of Illinois, where he farmed for twelve years, he came to Audubon county in 1881 and purchased two hundred and forty acres of land. He was married to Amy Palm, August 18, 1862. Five children were born to this marriage, of whom Fred, Jr., is the eldest.

When the Wahlert family came to Audubon county, Fred J., Jr., was six years old. On March 16, 1897, he was married in Audubon county, Iowa, to Clara Porter, who was born on June 27, 1878, in Washington county, Iowa. She is the daughter of John and Jennie (Godel) Porter, natives of Ireland and Illinois, respectively, who came to Audubon county about 1883.

To Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Wahlert, Jr., have been born five children: Clarence A., born on January 11, 1898; Elva V., September 7, 1900; Thelma V., March 16, 1903; Randall P., January 17, 1906, and Raymond F., September 8, 1912.

Mr. Wahlert is independent in politics and declines to be attached permanently to any party. He has never held office. Mrs. Wahlert is a member of the Congregational church and is active in the affairs of this congregation.

The Wahlert family is one of the very oldest in this section and Fred J. Wahlert, Jr., is a young man peculiarly equipped to uphold the traditions of the family. He is enterprising, industrious and popular in the community—a young man who, in every way, is entitled to bear the name of his venerable father.

ROBERT W. MULLENGER.

The science of agriculture, for it is a science, as well as an art, finds an able exponent and a successful practitioner in the person of Robert W. Mullenger, of Hamilton township, this county, who is not only a successful farmer, but has made a distinct success as a breeder of fancy live stock. Mr. Mullenger is widely known in Audubon county and maintains a very productive and valuable farm in Hamlin township. Mr. Mullenger is of English stock and comes from parents who immigrated to this country many years ago and who, early in life, settled in the state of Iowa. They played a conspicuous part in the general development of this favored section of the country.



ROBERT W. MULLENGER AND FAMILY



RESIDENCE OF ROBERT W. MULLENGER

Robert W. Mullenger was born on April 19, 1859, in Wisconsin, twenty miles from Milwaukee, the son of William R. and Mary (Tyler) Mullenger, natives of England, born in the vicinity of London, who came to the United States soon after their marriage, about 1856. Soon after arriving in this country they located in the state of Wisconsin, but in the fall of 1863 moved to Iowa. On the journey from Wisconsin to Iowa, the family came down the Mississippi river to Sabula and then drove overland to Bear Grove, Guthrie county, where the family remained until the next March, the father in the meantime walking on to Council Bluffs. When the family finally arrived at Exira, in this county, there were but eight small houses or shacks in the town. The mother died in 1873 and her son, Robert W., then went to live first with Rudolph Kremming, later with H. F. Andrews, the author of the historical section of this volume, with whom he lived for two years, at the end of which time he went to work for Mr. Andrews' father, with whom he remained for a period of five years. At the end of that time he rented land for one year, although he previously had bought a small tract of unimproved land. In 1883 Robert W. Mullenger moved to Audubon county from Cass county, where he had been renting, and in 1888, five years later, purchased one hundred and fifty-two acres of partially improved land in section 21 of Hamlin township. On November 28, 1907, the house on this farm was destroyed by fire and Mr. Mullenger then built a large eight-roomed house, with furnace, bath, gas lights and waterworks. The yard is surrounded with a beautiful grove of cedar trees, planted in 1890. Mr. Mullenger has built several new barns, cribs, granaries, and other farm buildings, all of the most substantial quality.

On October 2, 1889, Robert W. Mullenger was married to Sadie Sizer, of this county, who was born on March 18, 1868, in Jackson county, Iowa, the daughter of Robert and Hannah (Davis) Sizer, natives of England and Canada, respectively, who came to the United States when children, moving to Iowa in the early fifties and sixties. The father was a soldier in the Civil War, serving in Company A, Twenty-fourth Regiment Iowa Volunteer Infantry, for three years during which period of service he never was wounded nor taken prisoner.

To Robert W. and Sadie (Sizer) Mullenger five children have been born, three of whom are living, Ethel C., born on October 25, 1891; Mabel L., July 6, 1896, and Robert T., September 27, 1904, all of whom are still at home. John and Bessie Mae died in infancy.

Robert W. Mullenger assisted in the organization of the Blue Grass

Creamery Company, of Hamlin, this county, and held the offices of secretary and director alternately since the organization of the company until the last two years. Mr. Mullenger makes a specialty of raising thoroughbred registered Percheron horses and is a member of the American Percheron Society. He also makes a specialty of thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle, Duroc-Jersey hogs and Plymouth Rock chickens. His farm is known throughout Audubon county as "Evergreen Hill Stock Farm."

Until the campaign of 1912, Mr. Mullenger had been identified with the Republican party, but when Colonel Roosevelt organized the new Progressive party at Chicago in August, 1912, he identified himself with that party and has since been active in its councils in this section of Iowa. He has held no public offices of consequence, although he has always been active in civic and political affairs and is well known as an active and progressive citizen. Fraternally, Mr. Mullenger is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He has been prominent in educational affairs, having served as a school director for four terms and it was through his influence that the first modern school in Audubon county was erected.

NELS CHRISTENSEN.

One of the best-known and dearly-beloved citizens of Hamlin township, Audubon county, Iowa, during the last generation, was Nels Christensen, who ably discharged all the duties of honorable and upright citizenship, and who during the years of his struggle for a competence as a farmer of this county, was a power for great good in the community. For many years he was active in the agricultural life of Hamlin township, a prominent member of the Danish Lutheran church, one of the leading geniuses who promoted the organization of the West Hamlin Creamery Company, and a man of wide acquaintance throughout Audubon county. The late Nels Christensen was a man of kindly, charitable impulses, devoted to the welfare of his wife and family and well deserving the reverence which today attaches to his memory.

The late Nels Christensen was born on March 2, 1860, in Sjaelland, Denmark, and in 1882 came to the United States. After landing in New York city, and remaining there for a short time, he came direct to Avoca, Iowa, where he obtained work on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad. After having lived in Avoca about two years, he was sent by the company to Shelby, Iowa, and remained there only a few months and was then

sent to Council Bluffs, Iowa, where he worked on the section for a time. Later, he was given employment in the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific round-house, and remained in this employment until about 1890, when he came to Audubon county, and purchased forty acres of land in Hamlin township. Here he lived, doing the duties of each day as they appeared to him, and saving a liberal amount of his earnings, which enabled him to purchase a hundred and twenty acres of land, comprising a well-improved farm, which was in his possession at the time of his death, December 15, 1909.

At the time Mr. Christensen purchased the land there were but two buildings upon it, a house, fourteen by sixteen feet, and a shed barn. During the first summer he owned the farm he built two additional rooms to the house, and in 1902, he built an addition, sixteen by twenty-eight feet on the north of that. In 1913 the family remodeled the house and now have one of the nicest homes in Hamlin township. They have also built good cribs, granaries, barns and other out-buildings.

On June 12, 1884, the late Nels Christensen was married in Harlan, Iowa, to Marie Rasmussen, who was born in Sjaelland, Denmark, and who is the daughter of Rasmus and Marie (Jensen) Hansen. Mrs. Christensen came to the United States in 1884, and was married shortly after her arrival in this country. She has been the mother of seven children, as follow: Jens P., born on June 13, 1885; Emil C., June 24, 1890, married Stella Jensen; Lawrence C., November 19, 1891; Sophus V., April 25, 1895; Harvey, March 15, 1898; Marius, November 13, 1900, and Alice Marie, December 2, 1905. Jens P. lives at home and directs the operations on the home farm. Harry, Marius and Alice are also at home.

The late Nels Christensen was a Democrat in politics, but never held office; in fact, he was never a candidate for office. He was an active member of the Danish Lutheran church throughout his life, and helped built St. John's church in Oakfield township. He was an active contributor in support of the church, and also in support of the construction of the Exira church. All the members of the Christensen family are identified with the Danish Lutheran church. Mr. Christensen was a member of the Danish Brotherhood, and was prominent in that lodge.

A worthy citizen of this great county, an industrious and skillful farmer, a kind father and loving husband, the late Nels Christensen is remembered, not only by his family, who revere his memory, but by the host of friends he gained during his life in this county. Although he himself has gone, his work goes on, because his influence will not die.

HANS J. NIELSEN.

Conspicuous among the representative farmers and public-spirited citizens of Audubon county, Iowa, is the well-known Hans J. Nielsen, of Hamlin township. He has made his influence felt for good in his community in Hamlin township and is a man of sterling worth, whose life has been closely interwoven with the history of this township. His efforts have always been to promote the material advancement of Audubon county, as well as the social and moral welfare of his fellow-men. Mr. Nielsen has won the respect and admiration of his fellow citizens, which entitle him to representation in a biographical work of this nature. Like so many of his neighbors in Audubon county, Mr. Nielsen is a native of the splendid little kingdom of Denmark.

Hans J. Nielsen was born on July 6, 1862, in Jylland, Denmark. He is the son of Niels and Anna Nielsen, who were born near the same place in Denmark.

Hans J. Nielsen received a good education while a lad and served in the army of Denmark for about seven or eight months. At that time it was compulsory and all able-bodied young men were compelled to take a military training. Mr. Nielsen followed farming in the old country, working out by the year.

In March, 1887, Mr. Nielsen came to the United States, landing at New York city and, after spending a brief time there, came directly to Audubon county, Iowa. He worked out by the month for four years and during that period received fifty cents a day for his labor. He then purchased one hundred and seventy acres of land in Hamlin township, but later sold this farm and purchased eighty acres where he now lives in section 30. Mr. Nielsen has added to his original eighty acres and now owns two hundred and nineteen acres of the best land that can be found anywhere in Audubon county. The land was rather well improved at the time Mr. Nielsen purchased it and Mr. Nielsen has kept apace with the times, having built a large modern home with gas lights, furnace, waterworks, etc. His barn and sheds are all of thoroughly modern construction and bespeak the enterprise and progressive spirit of their owner.

On March 15, 1894, Hans J. Nielsen was married in Audubon county to Mary Jensen, who was born in Aro, an island off the coast of Denmark, and came to the United States three years after her husband arrived. Her parents, Klaus and Bertha Jensen, never came to this country.

To Mr. and Mrs. Nielsen have been born ten children, as follow: Alfred, Clara, Esther, Elmer, Albert, Rosie, Harvey, Violet, Thelma and Leonard. These children, who live at home, are all industrious and have been a great aid to their father and mother.

Mr. Nielsen does general farming and stock raising. He milks about sixteen head of cows the year round. Mr. Nielsen is a lover of his home and family and spends most of his time with them. The glamour and glare of official life have never appealed to him, as he is a man of modest temperament and thoroughly domestic habits. He is unassuming in manners and cordial in his relations with his neighbors and friends.

Mr. Nielsen is a Republican and while he votes this ticket, he is not active in politics because he prefers his home, his family and his farm. The family are all members of the Seventh-Day Adventist church.

HARVEY HIGHT.

An early settler of Audubon county, Iowa, and a man who gave nearly four years of his life to the service of his country and who is now a well-known farmer and stockman of Douglas township, Audubon county, is Harvey Hight, who was born, June 22, 1832, in Ohio. Mr. Hight's parents, Nicholas and Phoebe Hight, were born in New Jersey and Ohio, respectively. After working for many years as a ship carpenter in Cincinnati, the father emigrated to Illinois, where he bought a farm of a hundred and sixty acres. Selling this farm after cultivating it for a few years, he came to Iowa, thence to Charles City, and retired at the age of seventy-four, having reared a family of four children, Mary, Daniel, Thomas and Harvey. Of these children, Mary lives in Charles City, and Daniel and Thomas are deceased.

During the boyhood of Harvey Hight, the educational facilities in the state of Illinois, where he then lived, were considerably more limited than they are at the present time, and he was compelled to quit school at the age of fourteen, and engage in farm work, at which he continued for a period of six years. A part of the time, a period of about two years, he spent in working on the canal connecting Chicago and Peoria. Returning to the farm, he again spent two years in this vocation, but in 1861 enlisted in the Fifty-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and became a private soldier in Company D. He served in the war three years and eight months, and after the war rented a farm of two hundred and forty acres in Illinois. During the seven years which he occupied this farm he was able to save considerable money.

In 1879 Mr. Hight came to Iowa, locating at Walnut, where he stayed, however, only six months, at the end of which time he came to Audubon county and bought eighty acres of land for eight dollars an acre. Mr. Hight kept on adding to the original tract, until he owned two hundred and seven and sixty-eight hundredths acres near the Fiscus store. His part in improving the agricultural life of this community can be understood best, when it is recalled that he spent nearly ten thousand dollars in improving this land. During his entire career he has been accustomed to feed all of his grain to live stock raised on the farm. He sells about a carload of cattle every two years, and about fifty head of hogs every year.

In 1865, at the close of the Civil War, Mr. Hight was married to Margaret J. Dickey, daughter of Isaac and Lucinda Dickey, of Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Hight have had five children, L. D., Belle, Charles, William and Elmer, the last two of whom are deceased. L. D. Hight married Dora Garrutt, and they live in Douglas township. Belle married Ed Haskens, and they live on a part of Mr. Hight's farm.

For many years Harvey Hight has been identified with the Republican party, and for twelve years was trustee of his township, and road supervisor for twelve years. He also served as school director for three years. Fraternally, Mr. Hight is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, a secret society which he joined in the state of Illinois, but is not active at present. Religiously, Harvey Hight and family are members of the Christian church. They are well known in Douglas township; are respected citizens, honored for their industry and admired for their success as progressive, up-to-date farmers. Mr. Hight retired to Audubon in 1909, but makes his home in the summer time for the last two years on his home farm.

ANDREW GUSTAF FORSBECK.

Among the enterprising and progressive farmers of Audubon county now living retired, none stands higher in the esteem of his fellow citizens than Andrew Gustaf Forsbeck, of Gray. He has long been engaged in agricultural pursuits in this county and the years of his residence here have served to strengthen the feeling of admiration on the part of his neighbors and fellow townsmen because of his honorable, upright life. He has set a worthy example for the younger generation and is therefore entitled, as one of the representative citizens of Audubon county to representation in this volume.

Andrew Gustaf Frosbeck was born in Sweden on December 9, 1846, the son of Peter Peterson and Anna (Peterson) Frosbeck, the former of whom died in 1851, and the latter of whom died when Andrew Gustaf Frosbeck was a mere lad. Before Mr. Frosbeck reached his majority he became a sailor, sailing on the Atlantic ocean and on the Mediterranean Sea. His service expired January 30, 1874, and after this he came to America, locating in Whiteside county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming and on February 20, 1879, was united in marriage to Mary Antoinette Aikman, who was born on April 8, 1852, in Lyons, Iowa, the daughter of Robert and Sarah Aikman, natives of New Jersey and Canada, respectively, and old settlers in the state of Iowa. To Andrew G. and Mary A. (Aikman) Frosbeck three children have been born, Sadie, the wife of Chris Christensen, of Cameron township, this county; Ella, the wife of Lou Hansen, who lives on the home farm, and Carl D., county engineer of Audubon county, living in Audubon. Mr. and Mrs. Frosbeck have five grandsons, Nelson, Carl, Lyle and Roy and Ralph Christensen, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Christensen, of Cameron township.

Andrew Gustaf Frosbeck came to Audubon county on August 23, 1881, settling in Lincoln township. Previously, in 1879, he had come from Whiteside county, Illinois, to this county and had purchased eighty acres of raw prairie land in section 36, at sixteen dollars an acre. At that time there was no town where Gray now stands. Mr. Frosbeck erected there a house, sixteen by twenty-four feet, hauling the lumber all the way from Illinois. He still owns his original purchase of eighty acres. In January, 1912, Mr. Frosbeck retired from the farm and moved to Gray, where he erected a fine, modern home on a hill, which gives him a splendid view of the surrounding country.

Mr. Frosbeck is well acquainted with the early history of Gray, where he now lives. He relates that Doctor Warner was the first physician of Gray; that George Schroeder was the first saloon keeper; that Will Johnson was the first merchant and that Mr. Reeves kept the first hardware store, later selling out to Stotts & Myers. The first store building was a rough board shack; the first drug store was kept by Doctor Hinsdale, and the first liveryman was a Mr. Eby.

Andrew Gustaf Frosbeck is one of the best-known citizens of this community. He is a Republican and has held various minor township offices and for years has been looked to for counsel and advice in local political matters. Although Mr. Frosbeck was reared as a Lutheran, the family attend the United Brethren and Methodist Episcopal church. Mr.

Forsbeck is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Gray and the Woodmen of the World, in the affairs of both of which orders he takes a warm interest, and is held in high regard by all who know him.

HANS JORGENSEN.

A student interested in the history of Audubon county, Iowa, does not have to carry his investigations far into its annals before learning that Hans Jorgensen has long been an active and leading representative in its agricultural affairs. His labors have proved a potent force in making Audubon county a good farming region. During several decades Mr. Jorgensen has carried on farming, gradually improving his farm. While he has prospered in farming, he has also found ample opportunity to assist in the material development of Audubon county. His co-operation has always been of value and has been much sought by the people of his community with whom he stands very highly.

Hans Jorgensen was born on October 7, 1863, in Fynn, Denmark. He is the son of Peter and Birgitte (Nelsen) Jorgensen, who were also born in Fynn, Denmark. The father was a tailor by trade while living in the old country but, after coming to America, he followed farming. He was the father of ten children, of whom Hans was the eldest.

Hans Jorgensen received a good education in Denmark, which he supplemented by attending school at Oakfield, in Audubon county, after coming here. When he was seventeen years old, or in the spring of 1880, the family came to America, landing in New York city, thence coming direct to Atlantic, Cass county, Iowa.

After reaching this country, Hans Jorgensen went to work immediately on a farm near Elkhorn, in Shelby county. He worked out by the month until he was twenty-four years old and then rented a farm in Shelby county but lived there only one year. At this time he came to Hamlin township, Audubon county, where he rented land for two years more. In 1890 Mr. Jorgensen purchased eighty acres of land in Sharon township, where he lived until 1910. In 1888 Mr. Jorgensen's father had bought two hundred and thirteen acres of land in Hamlin township but, in the meantime, he had sold some of it, and at the time of his death, in 1906, he owned only one hundred and sixty-nine acres. In 1910 Hans Jorgensen purchased the farm of his mother, who is now living in Elkhorn.

Hans Jorgensen was married on April 23, 1888, in Audubon, to Katie Bartelsen, who was born on April 20, 1870, in Schleswig, Germany. She is the daughter of Hans E. and Anna K. (Schelleiup) Bartelsen. They were of Danish blood and came to the United States in 1884, locating in Audubon county. Mr. and Mrs. Jorgensen have no children.

Mr. Jorgensen makes a specialty of raising thoroughbred registered Shorthorn cattle, of which he is one of the few breeders in Audubon county. He also raises and feeds about seventy head of hogs per year. Mr. Jorgensen is a stockholder in the Elkhorn-Marne Telephone Company. He has a clear recollection of the Strawl murder near Brayton, which was one of the first murders in Audubon county and occurred about the time the Jorgensen family came to Audubon county.

Hans Jorgensen is a Democrat, but he is not "hide-bound" in his political affiliations and generally votes for the man rather than for the party. He has served as road supervisor and justice of the peace in his township and has held other minor offices of trust and responsibility. Mr. Jorgensen is a good citizen, an industrious and capable farmer and is devoted primarily to his home and has always made it his chief interest in life.

LEMUEL CLARK JOHNSON.

The best history of a community or state is the one which deals most with the lives and activities of its people, especially of those who, by their endeavor and indomitable energy, have made their work count in the battles of life. In this brief review may be found the record of a well-known citizen of Audubon, this county, who has made a success of the drayage business in that town and who is honored by all for his upright life and habits of thrift and industry.

Lemuel Clark Johnson was born on May 10, 1858, at Bernadotte, Fulton county, Illinois, the son of Gary and Margaret (Heiford) Johnson, both natives of Illinois. Margaret Heiford was the daughter of John Heiford, an early pioneer and one of the noted Indian fighters during the pioneer history of Illinois. Gary Johnson was born in 1834 and died in 1874. His wife was born in 1835 and died in 1869. He died in Arkansas, to which state he had immigrated when his son, Lemuel C., was a mere lad. He had first immigrated, in 1870, to Kansas City and thence to Ft. Scott, from which place he went to Arkansas. He was a shoemaker by trade. Subsequently,

Lemuel C. Johnson returned to Illinois, where he lived with an uncle for one year, and at the age of fifteen years began working for himself. He farmed for some time in Illinois and was married in that state in 1882. After his marriage, he continued farming until he came to Iowa in 1889. Mr. Johnson located in Audubon in the fall of 1890 and started a dray line, in which business he has prospered, now operating three teams in that city.

On December 31, 1882, Lemuel C. Johnson was married to Sarah Hoyle, who was born in Fulton county, Illinois, on June 18, 1865, the daughter of Lawrence and Pauline (Walters) Hoyle, the former of whom died on April 2, 1893, and the latter in 1868, and to this union the following children have been born: Daisy, born on August 12, 1884, in Illinois, who is the wife of Ren Phelps, of Audubon; Annetta, September 7, 1886, who is the wife of Scott Smith, of Texas; Bessie, March 4, 1888, died on February 3, 1891; Irvin, December 5, 1890, who is a clerk in Marquesen's department store in Audubon; Virgil, March 5, 1892; Mildred, July 12, 1904, and Avis, June 18, 1908, at home. The three first named children were born in Illinois.

Mr. Johnson is identified with the Democratic party but has never been especially active in politics, though taking a keen interest in local good government. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and family are identified with the Baptist church of Audubon, and Mr. Johnson is a member of the Yeomen of America.

KRISTEN LARSEN.

It is a pleasure to record in this history the admiration in which are held the law-abiding citizens who come to our shores from sturdy little Denmark. These people belong to one of the most industrious nations in the world; they are neither afraid nor ashamed to take up that which is first offered as a means of honest livelihood. They are not slaves to the social conditions, thus maintaining that independence of thought and action which give them distinctive individuality.

Kristen Larsen, farmer and stockman, of Douglas township, Audubon county, Iowa, was born on August 15, 1863, in Denmark. He is a son of Lars Larsen and Anna (Christiansen) Larsen. His early education was secured in the country schools of his native land. He left school at the age of fourteen and worked on a farm in that country, until he was twenty-nine years of age. Being ambitious, he made up his mind to see something of the world, as well as to seek a field offering more advantages than he could find

in the land of his birth. On coming to America, he landed at New York, thence direct to Audubon county in 1891. He worked on a farm for one year, at the end of which time he bought a farm of one hundred acres, for which he paid twenty-seven dollars an acre, in section 19, Douglas township. He sold this property in 1899, and moved to section 29, where he bought one hundred and twenty acres, and in 1907, he bought one hundred acres about one mile west of his place, and in 1911 bought eighty acres one mile north of his home, for which he paid one hundred and fifty dollars an acre. The improvements on the place have cost Mr. Larsen about ten thousand dollars. His principal crops are corn and small grain, the corn averaging about sixty bushels to the acre, and the small grain about thirty-five bushels to the acre, the most of which is fed to the stock raised on the place. Mr. Larsen offers for sale each year about one hundred head of hogs and one car-load of cattle, all of which are of an extra good grade of stock. He is a member of the Danish Lutheran church, and holds the offices of school director and trustee at the present time. In politics, he is a Republican.

Lars and Anna (Christiansen) Larsen, parents of our subject, were born in Denmark, where they were also married, and were the parents of three children: Hannah, Gertrude and Kristen. The father was the owner of a small farm in Denmark, where he lived and died. He was in the German-Danish War of 1848.

In 1890, Mr. Larsen was united in marriage to Christina, daughter of Lars Jensen, of Denmark. They are the parents of eight children, namely: Lawrence, Louis, Anna, Katie, Mary, Arthur, Lilia and Otto, all of whom are still at home, with the exception of Anna, who became the wife of Martin Larsen. They reside about a mile from her father's home.

GEORGE KYHNN.

George Kyhnn is one of the representative farmers of Hamlin township, Audubon county, Iowa. Mr. Kyhnn owns a splendid farm of two hundred and fifty-five acres and carries on the various departments of the farming enterprise with that discretion and energy which are certain to find their material sequence in a definite measure of success. Mr. Kyhnn has always been a hard worker and a good manager, and of economic habits. He has been fortunately situated in a thriving farming community. It is no wonder that he stands today in the front rank of the farmers in this favored section of the great Hawkeye commonwealth.

George Kyhnn was born on September 3, 1861, in Schleswig, Germany. He is a son of John and Mary A. (Kruse) Kyhnn, who were also natives of Schleswig, where John Kyhnn was a farmer. John Kyhnn and wife were the parents of eight children, of whom George Kyhnn was the eldest.

George Kyhnn attended school until he was sixteen years of age, during which time he received a very creditable education. After leaving school he worked out until he came to the United States. He was married in Germany.

In November, 1883, Mr. Kyhnn came to the United States, landing at New York city, thence coming directly to Audubon county, Iowa, where he had some cousins living. At first, Mr. Kyhnn located at Audubon, where he obtained work with the Rock Island Railway Company as a section hand. He worked for this company five years, after which he rented a farm for three years. Subsequently, he purchased eighty acres of land in section 16, of Hamlin township, and Mr. Kyhnn has gradually added to his original land holdings until he is now the owner of two hundred and fifty-five acres of land. He has erected nearly all of the buildings now standing on the farm and put upon it nearly all of the present improvements, and he now has one of the best-improved and highly-productive farms within a radius of several miles.

George Kyhnn was married on June 30, 1883, in Lygumkloster, Schleswig, to Eliza Jepsen, who was born on November 29, 1857, in Schleswig, and who is a daughter of Soren and Christina (Petersen) Jepsen. Her father was a farmer and tax collector in his native country, in which latter capacity he worked for the Danish government.

Mr. and Mrs. George Kyhnn are the parents of eight children: John, who married Agnes Nelsen, the daughter of Rasmus Nelsen, and they have one child, George; Sherman, Anna, Christina, Chris, Ida, Arthur and Rosa. The seven unmarried children are still living at home.

Mr. Kyhnn is engaged in general farming and stock raising. He feeds quite a number of cattle and hogs each year for the market, and is also interested in the dairy business, milking about fifteen cattle. Mr. Kyhnn is a stockholder in the Elkhorn-Marne Telephone Company.

Mr. Kyhnn is a Republican, and has served as township trustee for Hamlin township for the past eight years, the duties of which office he has discharged in a most satisfactory manner and has won the praise and approval of all the citizens of the township, regardless of politics. He and his family are members of the Danish Lutheran church at Hamlin, and are active in the affairs of this church, and are liberal contributors to its support.

CARL M. JENSEN.

In recalling the old saying that "A rolling stone gathers no moss," we can certainly bear witness to the fact that it does not apply to the subject of this sketch, for he has been amply rewarded for the risk, if we may call it such, in leaving his mother country and casting his lot into the "melting-pot" of the world—America. In the community in which he lives, Mr. Jensen is more than comfortably provided for in this world's goods, and he is considered a man of wealth.

Carl M. Jensen, farmer, Douglas township, Audubon county, Iowa, is a son of Jens Jensen and Mary Kjin. He was born in Denmark, where he attended school until fourteen years of age, when he went to work on a farm in Denmark until he was nineteen years old. He served for a time in the army in his native country, after which he again went to work on a farm. At the age of twenty-two he came to this country, landing in New York, and came directly west, stopping in Chicago a short time, and then went to Clifton, Illinois, where he worked for an Irishman for the purpose of learning the English language. He worked for this man one year, then worked one year for the man's brother in the same town, going from that place to Harlan, Iowa, where he worked one summer in a brick-yard, after which he rented a farm in Shelby county, near Harlan, and lived there nine years. He then went to Erwin and rented a farm, on which he lived three years. Becoming dissatisfied with this location, he went to Audubon county in 1900, bought eighty acres of the place he now lives on, for which he paid twenty-nine dollars and fifty cents an acre, and the next fall bought another farm of eighty acres, paying thirty-five dollars an acre, and six years later, bought the balance of his farm for sixty-five dollars an acre, one hundred and ninety-nine acres in all. He has put about seven thousand five hundred dollars' worth of improvements on the place. In 1910 he built a new and modern dwelling, at a cost of four thousand dollars and has erected a waterworks on the farm. The principal crops are corn and oats. The corn averages about fifty bushels to the acre, and the oats about thirty-five bushels to the acre. He feeds about one car of cattle and one car of hogs each year. In addition to his farm work Mr. Jensen has served as school director. He belongs to the Baptist church of Shelby county, and is Sunday school teacher, collector and treasurer. He has always voted the Republican ticket. His parents were born in Denmark, where they both died and where his father was a farmer on a small scale. They had a family of nine children, namely: Stina, Christiana, Anna, Jens, Christ, Andrew, Selius, John and Carl N.

In 1882 Mr. Jensen was married in Denmark to Sena Rockdal, daughter of Andrew Rockdal, and they are the parents of eleven children, as follow: Carrie, Thorwald, Ella, Stella, Mattie, Anna, Evaline, Roy, Holgar, Levy and Arnold. Carrie became the wife of a Mr. Montgomery, and lives in California. Thorwald is in Oakfield township, Audubon county; Ella became the wife of a Mr. Peterson and lives in Shelby county; Stella was married to Dwight Teague and lives near Audubon; Mattie visited the Panama Exposition, 1915; Anna is married to a Mr. Jensen, and lives in Shelby county; Evaline is at home, where she attends the country school; Arnold and Levy work on their father's farm.

OL. MEASE.

After many years of hard work and close attention to business, the gentleman whose name captions this sketch, is enabled to enjoy the fruits of his labor, doing so with the knowledge that he has always dealt with his brother-man in an honest, straightforward manner. His life as a farmer has been eminently successful in all phases, and his unremitting industry, coupled with integrity, has been rewarded by a fair share of the world's goods.

Ol. Mease, farmer and general stockman, Lincoln township, Audubon county, was born at Freedport, Illinois, March 27, 1865. He is a son of J. J. Mease and Elizabeth (Walkey) Mease. He left Freedport with his father, when five years of age. His early education was secured in the public schools of the county and, on quitting school at the age of seventeen years, went to work on his father's farm, where he remained until twenty-one years old. He then rented a farm in Iowa, and followed the vocation of threshing grain for twenty-four years. At the present time he farms two hundred and twenty acres, which is owned by his wife, and devotes his special attention to the breeding and sale of Percheron stallions and horses, a number of which he sells each year. He now has nine stallions and twenty-one thoroughbred mares on the place. In addition to the above, Mr. Mease is also devoting a portion of his time and attention to Duroc hogs, of which he has one hundred and eighty on the place, and of these he sells about two carloads each year. The grain raised on his farm is all fed to the stock. He has put about six thousand dollars worth of improvements on his land. His political views are Democratic.

The father of Ol. Mease lived at Freedport for ten years, where he fol-

lowed the vocation of farming, and went from there to Nebraska for a few years, going from there to Iowa, where he rented a farm, and after remaining here for a time, he went to the Ozark mountains, where he now resides. He and his wife are the parents of the following children, namely: Ed., Ol., Art., Wilber, Mary, Martha, Rose.

Mr. Mease was united in marriage, on April 20, 1899, to Mrs. Eliza A. Welty, widow of Lynn Welty, and has since lived on the place where they settled at the time of their marriage. They have no children. Mrs. Mease is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mrs. Mease is a daughter of William M. and Eliza A. (Clark) Matson, who were natives of Ohio, where they married and later settled in Illinois, when he and she later came to Audubon county, Iowa, where she later bought land and here she died. They had seven children, Maudy, now Mrs. Kittell, and subject's wife. The other five died in infancy. She died on June 16, 1903, at Gray, Iowa.

ALBERT DAVID.

Among the representative farmers of Lincoln township, none is more deserving of praise than Albert David, the subject of this sketch. He possesses the qualities necessary for success on a farm, and has not been slow in putting his ability to a use that would give him the best possible returns. He has fully demonstrated that progress is the order of the age. He is a good manager, and keeps himself well informed on the most approved methods of up-to-date farming and stock raising.

Albert David, general farmer and stockman, Lincoln township, Audubon county, is a son of John and Wilhelmena David. After carefully considering the matter, he decided to branch out as a farmer on his own responsibility, and rented a farm in Douglas township, which he cultivated for two years after his marriage, and then went into partnership with his father on his farm, remaining with him until twenty-eight years old. Leaving his father, he bought a farm in Lincoln township, in section 17, where he remained six years, after which he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 21, which at one time belonged to his father, and which he still owns and lives on. He has put in about three thousand dollars worth of improvements on the place, and has made a specialty of corn and small grain, which he feeds to hogs and cattle. He feeds, on an average, fifty hogs each year. Mr. David has done his share in filling the township offices. He was school

director for one year, and road supervisor about the same length of time. He is a member of the German Lutheran church, and in politics, votes the Democratic ticket.

The parents of our subject were both born in Germany, coming to America in 1886, and settled in Audubon county. The father worked as a farm hand for four or five years, and then rented a farm and commenced to farm for himself. In a few years, he had accumulated sufficient money to purchase a farm of eighty acres in section 17, Lincoln township, where he lived six years, when he sold out and bought a larger farm, on which he still lives in section 21. They had six children—Johanna, Carl, Albertina, Fred, Albert and Agusta. Agusta has never married.

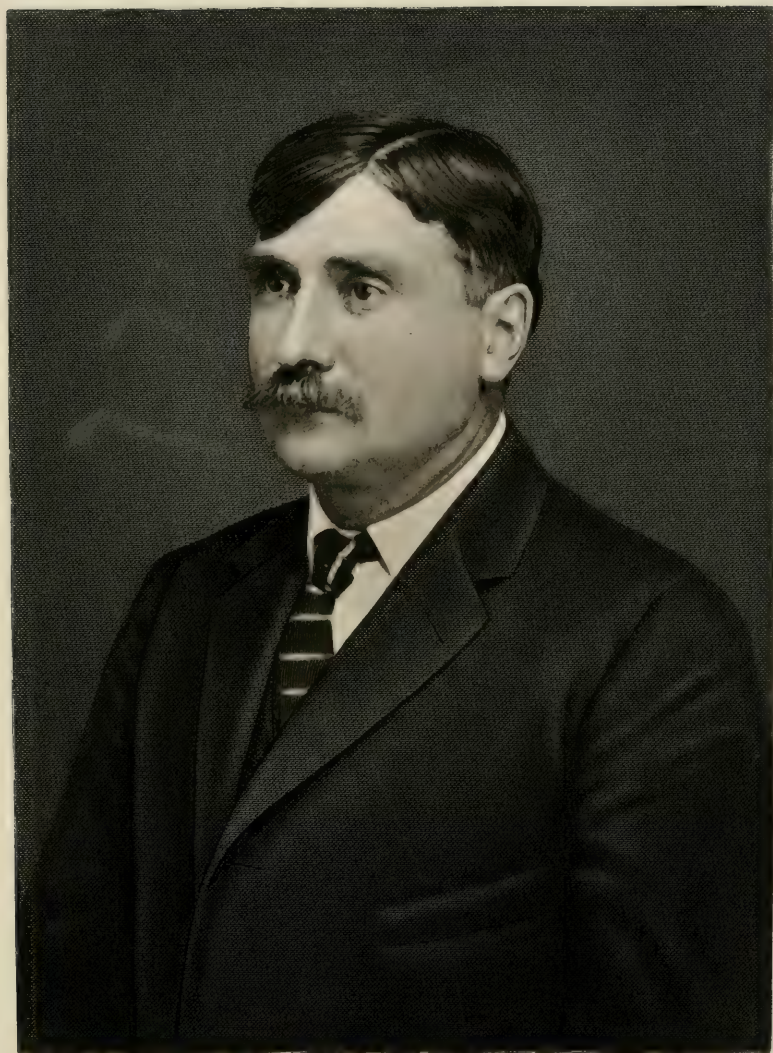
Mr. David was married in 1899, to Minnie Borkowski, daughter of Henry and Alvina Borkowski, by whom he has had five children, as follow: Edna, Alford, Emil, Clarence and Hugo.

Mrs. David's father, Henry Borkowski, came from Germany. Her mother, Alvina Polzin, came from Germany, also, and settled in Cook county, Illinois, for two years, after which they located in Pottawattamie county, Iowa, and later came to Lincoln township, Audubon county, where he is still living. The mother is now dead. They were the parents of the following children: Emil, Otto, Minnie, Henry, Gustav, and two daughters who died when young.

FRANK E. DUVALL.

Coming to this county in 1886 with a draft for six hundred dollars, a team of horses and a wagon, Frank E. Duvall, at that time a young man just past his majority, went to work with the determination to establish a home on the prairie of Greeley township, and now owns four hundred and eighty acres of as good land as lies in Audubon county, all of which is in an excellent state of cultivation and on which he has a house in which there is running water and all the conveniences of a city home with barns and out-buildings to match, making one of the best managed and most highly developed farms in the county, his industry furnishing a fine example for the rising generation of this county.

Frank E. Duvall, was born in Washington county, Iowa, July 5, 1864, the son of Jefferson and Mary (Brown) Duvall, natives of Union county, Ohio, the former of whom was a son of Horace Duvall, a native of France and a soldier of the War of 1812, who for many years thereafter drew a pension from a grateful government for his faithful service in that struggle



Frank E. Duvall

with England. Upon Horace Duvall's death his widow was left in the care of her son, Jefferson, who was one of the first settlers in Washington county, this state. He drove through from Ohio with his wife and mother, arriving at his destination in the bleak November with three dollars in cash and a yoke of oxen. The former he gave for three bushels of wheat and the latter he traded for forty acres of virgin land, on which he made his home and where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. Jefferson Duvall and his wife were among the leaders among the pioneers of that section of the state. They were earnest members of the Methodist church and were prominent in the activities of the "underground railroad" of slavery days. Jefferson Duvall lived a clean, upright life and enjoyed the reputation of being one of the most level-headed men in that part of the state. He was an ardent Republican and took an active part in the political affairs of Washington county, his counsel and advice being accepted without question by the party leaders of that time and place. He and his wife were the parents of ten children: William, Reeves, Horace W., A. I., Mrs. Clea Crahil, Mrs. Emma Rushling, Frank E., Mrs. Kate Gray, Edward and one who died in infancy.

Frank E. Duvall received but little schooling in his youth, Ray's Arithmetic being his principal text-book, his boyhood being spent herding cattle on the boundless prairies. He remained at home until he was nearly twenty-two years of age, at which time he came to Audubon county, being attracted by word of the wonderful fertility of the soil in this section. He had a draft for six hundred dollars and a team of horses and a wagon. He bought eighty acres of virgin land in section 3 of Greeley township, paying six hundred dollars for the same. On this farm he built a small house, fourteen by twenty-two, eight feet in height, which by the time the plastering was finished, cost him about two hundred dollars. He later bought an eighty-acre tract adjoining, on which there had been erected a one-room house, which he moved over and attached to his house, thus giving him three rooms, and this he called "home, sweet home" until 1909, in which year he built his present handsome and commodious home of eleven rooms, with furnace, hot and cold water, bath and all the conveniences of a city home. His barns and grain cribs are on a similar scale. He has crib room for about twenty thousand bushels of corn and has modern feeding sheds with concrete floors. He feeds about fifteen car loads of cattle and about five hundred and fifty head of hogs annually, having added to his original eighty-acre range until he now possesses a fine farm of four hundred and eighty acres, well improved and up to the highest standard of cultivation.

On November 21, 1889, Frank E. Duvall was united in marriage to Anna Maurer, daughter of Anthony and Mary (Cribbs) Maurer, prominent residents of this county, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume. To this union six children were born, five of whom are still living: Nellie, born on June 13, 1893, who married Carl Wilson and has four children, Vernon, Ruby, Wilma and Buena; Olive, born on September 24, 1900; Clark, born on July 30, 1904; Millie, born on April 15, 1906; Martha, born on September 15, 1910, and Arvie, who died when two years of age.

Mr. Duvall is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to the political affairs of the county, and has filled minor offices of trust and responsibility with credit to himself and satisfaction to the people of his township. He is an excellent citizen and fine neighbor and enjoys the full confidence and respect of all who know him, he and his wife being held in the highest regard by all.

JOHN WAHLERT.

John Wahlert, now numbered among the prominent and successful farmers of Greeley township, this county, was born on November 22, 1866, in Moline, Rock Island county, Illinois, the son of Jurgen and Lena (Dolmeier) Wahlert, the former of whom was born in Holstein, Germany, on December 3, 1842, son of John and Elizabeth (Stormon) Wahlert, both natives of Germany. John Wahlert was a laborer and farm hand, who came to America in 1885 many years after his son Jurgen had located here. He located in Illinois and after remaining there for a short time, came to Audubon county, where he spent the rest of his life with his children. He and his wife were the parents of the following children, namely: Fred, Jurgen, Tenia (deceased), John (deceased), Jacob, Catherine, Margaret, Edward and August. Jurgen Wahlert was educated in the schools of his native land and "worked out," as a farm hand, by the month. He came to America at the age of twenty-four, a year after his marriage, arriving in this country on May 28, 1866, and located at Moline, Illinois, where for a time he worked as a laborer in a saw-mill and in the lumber yards of that city, later engaging in farming near Moline, and was thus engaged until 1881, in which year he came to Audubon county and purchased a farm. He now owns two hundred and forty acres which he purchased from the Rock Island Railroad Company for seven dollars an acre.

On April 16, 1865, in Germany, Jurgen Wahlert was married to Lena Dolmeier, the daughter of Jacob Dolmeier, and to this union nine children

were born, namely: John, Bertha, Fred, August, William, George, Edward, Minnie and Gustave, John Wahlert, the subject of this sketch, being the eldest.

John Wahlert attended the public schools of Illinois until he was sixteen years old. In 1881 the family came to this county and he continued to live at home until he was twenty-three years old. He then spent a few months in Fremont county, Iowa, and in South Dakota, after which he came back to Audubon county, where he has since lived. Working out for various farmers in the neighborhood until he was twenty-seven years old, Mr. Wahlert then bought one hundred and twenty acres of partly improved land in section 26 of Greeley township. On this he has made many additional improvements, and it is now regarded as one of the best farms in the county. Mr. Wahlert has prospered and not long ago added two hundred acres more to his farm holdings, this latter farm being located in section 34 of Greeley township.

On November 1, 1894, John Wahlert was married to Ida Foss, of this county, who was born on March 11, 1874, in Atkinson, Henry county, Illinois, the daughter of Henry and Mary (Jacobsen) Foss, both of whom were natives of Germany, the latter having been born in Schleswig on September 25, 1846. She came to the United States with her parents in 1868 and after settling at Moline, Illinois, was married on December 11, of the same year to Henry Foss. In 1885 they came to Audubon county, purchasing a farm six miles east of Exira, in Audubon township, where they lived until 1907 when they retired and moved to Exira. They were the parents of four children, Henry, Ida, Charles and a second daughter, who died at the age of five years. To John and Ida (Foss) Wahlert have been born five children, Herbert, born on September 24, 1895; Myrtle, May 14, 1897; Ralph, October 29, 1899; George, September 27, 1902, and Emma, October 21, 1904.

Mr. Wahlert is engaged in general farming and stock raising. In the fall of 1913 he built a large ten-room house, which is equipped with every modern convenience, including gas lights and bath, one of the largest dwellings in Greeley township. Mr. Wahlert's barns are also of excellent construction. There are three barns on the farm as well as granaries, hog-houses and other well-kept farm buildings.

All in all John Wahlert must be regarded as one of the most progressive and enterprising farmers of Audubon county, not only for the reason that he gets handsome profits from all of his investments and labor but also for the reason that his farms are among the best-kept places in Audubon county. He is well known in this section of the state for his sturdy, independent manhood, his shrewd, business-like management and his honorable, upright character.

HANS FABRICIUS.

Hans Fabricius, a farmer and stockman of Douglas township, Audubon county, Iowa, who was born, February 29, 1868, in Denmark, is the son of Hans and Anna Fabricius, both of whom were natives of Denmark, and the parents of eight children. The children were, H. M., Mary, Hans, Katrina, the elder, George, Katrina, the younger; Mike and Anna. The father for many years was a sailor on the Baltic sea, and being caught in a tornado was drowned. The Fabricius children, with one or two exceptions, have all come to this country. H. M. lives in Idaho; Katrina, the elder, died in infancy; George is a farmer in Audubon county; Michael is a farmer in Audubon county; Anna died in her native land, and Mary still lives in Denmark.

Educated in the public schools of Denmark, Hans Fabricius left school at the age of fourteen, and, after working on a farm for three years, worked in a blacksmith shop for four years. At the age of twenty-one he came to this country with his brother, Mike, and after landing in New York city, they came direct to Audubon county, where Hans worked on a farm for three months. He then conducted a blacksmith shop at Audubon for a year, after which he lived on the farm for three months, and then removed to Elkhorn, Iowa, where he started a shop of his own. After owning and conducting this shop for nine and one-half years, he bought a farm of fifty acres near Fiscus, and two years later purchased forty acres more. Mr. Fabricius kept on adding to his land, until he owned two hundred and fifteen acres in Douglas township. He is accustomed to feed all of the grain he raises to live stock. Ordinarily he feeds about one carload of cattle and about eighty head of hogs every year. He keeps a thoroughbred Shire stallion on the farm, and since owning his present land has invested about six thousand dollars in buildings, fences and ditches.

In 1893 Mr. Fabricius was married in Elkhorn to Caroline Tovil, of Elkhorn, the daughter of Soren Tovil. Mr. and Mrs. Fabricius are the parents of five children, Hans, Anna, Einar, Harry and Martin, all of whom are living at home. The three youngest children are attending school.

A Democrat in politics, Mr. Fabricius served as school director for two years. Religiously, the Fabricius family belong to the Danish Lutheran church. Fraternally, he is a member of the United Danish Brotherhood. Like so many of the Danish farmers who have come to Audubon county, Mr. Fabricius has established a comfortable home in this county, has lived to rear a family of children, and to take a commendable part in the govern-

ment of our country. During the years of his life in this country he has become a thorough-going and enthusiastic citizen, and by his wisdom and his counsel has added to the stability of our institutions and the well-being of our government. It is men such as he who have made the raw prairie teem with growing grain and bountiful harvests. This is one of the contributions which the diligent and industrious Danish citizens have made to our civilization.

SAMUEL FRANKLIN GARMIRE.

The name of Samuel Franklin Garmire is one quickly recognized by the citizens of Lincoln township, as belonging to a man whose good management and never-failing supply of energy have been directed toward the goal of his ambition. Fate decreed that he should be a farmer, and she should be well pleased with what he has accomplished. His present splendid stock-farm is the result of the interest and good management which he has always displayed in his work. His fine stock-farm is one of the most attractive places of the kind in the county, as he has always had a strong belief in the saying that "whatever is worth doing at all, is worth doing well."

Samuel Franklin Garmire, general farmer and stockman, of Lincoln township, Audubon county, was born on October 20, 1850, in Holmes county, Ohio. He is a son of Daniel Garmire and Elizabeth (Dunmire) Garmire. His early education was received in the public schools of Holmes county. Leaving school at a nearly age, he went to work on his father's farm, after which he worked at the carpenter's trade at Benton for twelve years, going from there to Walnut, Iowa, and later, to Audubon county, where he bought eighty acres in Lincoln township. Mr. Garmire has spent about seven thousand dollars in improvements on his farm. All the grain raised on the place is fed to his stock, of which he sells about seventy-five head a year.

Mr. Garmire has been a member of the county board for six years, and has been trustee of the township for nine years, also acting as president of the school board. He is a member of the United Brethren church at Gray, and is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he has occupied the position of chairman. In politics, Mr. Garmire is a staunch Republican.

Daniel Garmire, father of our subject, was born in Holmes county, Ohio, as was also his wife. He was a farmer, and always lived in the county in which he was born. They were the parents of eight children, one of whom

died young: James, Samuel Franklin, Theodore and Theophilus, twins; Mary, Alice, William and John. S. F. is the only one in Audubon county at present.

At the age of twenty-two, Mr. Garmire was united in marriage to Mary Schreiber, daughter of John Frederick and Katherine (Resla) Schreiber, who was born in Wittenberg, Germany, by whom he has had five children, as follow: Clara B., Elizabeth A., Elsie A., Cora R., and Charles F. Clara became the wife of S. E. Newell, and has one child, Winifred. They live in Lincoln township. Elsie is married to C. H. Newell, and lives in Lake City. They have two children, Grace and Velma. Cora became the wife of L. G. Dixon, and lives at Ames, Iowa. They have two children, Ivadell E. and Eva. Elizabeth A. married Edward H. Bunker, of Gray, Iowa. They have one child, Edith May. Charles married Grace Cameron, of Gray, Iowa. They have two children, Marjorie A. and Samuel C.

AUGUST BURR.

The German nation has furnished thousands of good citizens to the state of Iowa, and Audubon county has been fortunate to count a number of these as part of her body politic. The descendants of these early German settlers in Iowa are characterized by the same thrift and economy which made their fathers the leading farmers and business men of the various communities in which they settled. August Burr, one of the leading farmers of Audubon county before his retirement and removal to Audubon, the county seat, was a worthy citizen of Audubon county and a native-born German, possessing all of those admirable qualities which characterize his people.

August Burr was born in December, 1846, in Mecklenburg, Germany. He is the son of Henry and Christian Burr, who died when August was young.

In 1870, when twenty-four years of age, August Burr came to America and located near Iowa City, working as a farm hand for some time. Later, he rented a farm in Johnson county, near Iowa City, and lived upon this farm until 1880. In the meantime he had adapted himself to American methods and was becoming prosperous. He left the farm in Johnson county, Iowa, and after that moved to Audubon county, where he lived on a rented farm for two years. At the end of this period, Mr. Burr bought a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Greeley township; this farm consisted of raw prairie land and had never been plowed. Mr. Burr was able to purchase

the land for seven and eight dollars an acre and, although he had little money at the time, he was able to make the first payment and soon built a small house. He lived on this farm until 1907 and then moved to Audubon. In the meantime, Mr. Burr had prospered by good management and frugal, economical habits and now owns four hundred and forty acres, one hundred and sixty acres of which is Hamlin township. August Burr has worked hard and has been thrifty throughout his life. In the early years, his struggle for success was made harder from the fact that he had to pay a heavy rate of interest, in some cases as high as twenty-four per cent. Mr. Burr sold his home farm in 1914 for one hundred and fifty dollars an acre. This price is in marked contrast to the price that was paid thirty years ago, when money was very scarce and living was very hard.

August Burr was married on November 23, 1876, to Marie Schalow, who was born on February 23, 1853, at Mecklenburg, Germany, and who is the daughter of John Schalow, who came to America in 1875. Mr. and Mrs. Burr were married in Johnson county, Iowa. They have been the parents of six children: Mrs. Lena Savage, of Audubon; Mrs. Etta Owen, of Hamlin township; Minnie, who is at home; Mrs. Sophia Rubel, of Greeley township; Henry, who married Glee Anciaux and lives in Greeley township, and August, who lives in Greeley township.

August Burr has always been independent in politics and has never identified himself with a particular party. He believes in supporting measures and men rather than parties and party emblems. Mr. and Mrs. Burr and family are members of the German Lutheran church.

IVER P. HANSEN.

There is no calling however humble, in which enterprise and industry, coupled with well-directed purpose, will not produce some measure of success. In the pursuit of farming, the qualities mentioned are quite essential. Among the well-known and highly-respected farmers of Audubon county, who are now living retired, having acquired a substantial competence for their declining years, and who, while they have done this, have at the same time greatly benefited the community in which they live, is Iver P. Hansen, who lives at Audubon, Iowa. Mr. Hansen, who is well known throughout Audubon county, is a native of Denmark, which has given to this country so many of her best citizens and it is eminently fitting that a brief account of his life and works be included in this volume.

Iver P. Hansen, a retired farmer of Audubon, Iowa, was born on April 28, 1845, in Denmark. He is the son of Hans Christian Peterson and Bodel (Frederickson) Peterson, the former of whom died in 1850 and the latter in 1874. Hans C. Stevenson was a cabinetmaker by trade. He and his wife were the parents of four children: Iver P., the subject of this sketch; Elsie, who is now deceased, who was born in Denmark but later came to America; Nelsena, the wife of Jens Anderson, of Wisconsin. Iver P. Hansen's mother was married three times and was the mother of eight children.

Iver P. Hansen was married in Denmark to Christina Marie Peterson, May 29, 1869, and in 1870 they came to America. After arriving in this country, Mr. and Mrs. Hansen came to Chicago, where he worked in the fall of 1870 and then went to Wisconsin and worked in the timber, cutting cord wood for fifteen years. He also farmed one hundred and sixty acres which he owned in the wilderness; this farm was located in Dore county. Mr. Hansen cleared one hundred acres of his timbered tract. He made a trip to Audubon county in 1884 and purchased one hundred and twenty acres, which were partly improved, in Leroy township, west of Audubon. Mr. Hansen paid twenty-seven and one-half dollars for it. Subsequently, he returned to Wisconsin and sold out his holdings in that state. He brought his family to Audubon in 1885. Mr. Hansen added eighty acres in 1892 which he purchased at thirty-five dollars an acre, and now owns two hundred acres. In 1906 he sold his farm at ninety-seven and one-half dollars an acre, which was the first farm sold at that price. In 1910 he bought one hundred and sixty acres in Cameron township for sixteen thousand dollars and in March, 1907, he moved to Audubon. Later he built a splendid new modern house in south Audubon. This house consists of nine rooms and cost thirty-two hundred dollars.

To Mr. and Mrs. Iver P. Hansen, six children have been born, Hans C., who is a farmer in Adams county, Iowa; Peter L., who is a merchant in Washington; Clara M., who is the wife of Postmaster R. C. Spencer; Augusta L., who married William Geombel, of Adams county, Iowa, and Frank Edward, who lives on a farm in Cameron township, and has one child, Frances Marie. Hans C. Hansen has two children, Iver Peter and Mary Louisa, and Mrs. Clara M. Spencer also has two children, Arnold Hans and Lillian Esther.

Mrs. Iver P. Hansen was born on May 15, 1848, in Denmark and was the daughter of Peter Laurersen and Marie (Jensen) Peterson, who lived and died in Denmark, where they were farmers.

Iver P. Hansen is a Democrat in politics. For many years he was a

school director and road supervisor in his native township. In 1898 Mr. Hansen was a candidate for representative but was defeated. Religiously, Mr. and Mrs. Hansen and family are identified with the Presbyterian church.

GEORGE C. NORTHUP.

Among the worthy citizens of Audubon, Iowa, whose residence here has contributed in no small degree to the prestige of the community is George C. Northup, a member of the firm of Northup Brothers, grain and live stock dealers, of Audubon. While laboring for his own individual advancement, Mr. Northup has never forgotten his obligations to the public and his support of such measures and movements as have been made for the general good, has always been forthcoming. Although his life has been a busy one, his private affairs making heavy demands upon his time, he has never allowed it to interfere with his obligations as a citizen and neighbor. Through long years of residence in this locality, he has ever been true to the trust reposed in him, whether of a public or private nature; his reputation in a business way being unassailable. Possessing in a marked degree those sterling traits which command the confidence and regard of his neighbors and business associates, he is, today, honored by all who know him and is numbered among the representative men of this section of the state.

George C. Northup was born on March 20, 1869, in Johnson county, Nebraska. He is the son of Nathan and Harriett (Sherlock) Northup and a brother of H. A. Northup, whose life story is told elsewhere in this volume.

George C. Northup came to Audubon county in 1881, when twelve years old and attended school in Audubon. The Northup family moved to Johnson county, Iowa, in 1875. When George C. Northup had attained his majority, he began farming for himself in Douglas township on a rented farm which he operated for one year. He later rented land for one year in Leroy township and subsequently, for one year in Sac county. In the spring of 1893, he moved to Pierce county, Nebraska, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on which he resided for six years. At the end of this period, or 1899, he sold out this farm in Pierce county, Nebraska, and farmed for three years in Douglas township. He then purchased eighty acres in Cameron township and lived there for two years. At the end of this time, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Cameron township, on which he lived for three years. He then sold out and purchased one hun-

dred and sixty acres in Melville township and lived on this last farm for two years. In the spring of 1909, Mr. Northup moved to Audubon, the county seat of Audubon county, and here engaged in the grain and stock business with his brothers, H. A. Northup and William Northup under the firm name of Northup Brothers. This firm buys and ships to the eastern market about two hundred and forty carloads of live stock each year. The firm also buys and ships about one hundred carloads of grain each year. This is considered a large business and the Northup Brothers are known as very successful business men in this locality.

George C. Northup was married on March 4, 1891, to Ella Darland, the daughter of I. M. Darland, one of the pioneer settlers of Audubon county. To Mr. and Mrs. George C. Northup, two children have been born, Mable, who is the wife of T. A. Moore and has one child, Fern, and Parker, seven years of age, who is at home and attending school.

In politics, Mr. Northup is a Democrat. He is not identified with any church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is active in the affairs of this lodge.

F. L. ANDERSON.

One of the comparatively few farmers of Cameron township, who is a native of the great Hawkeye state, is F. L. Anderson, the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land in Cameron township. Mr. Anderson was born in Louisa county, Iowa, June 16, 1869, the son of Peter F. and Barbara Anderson, the former a native of New Jersey and the latter of Pennsylvania. Peter F. Anderson was a small child when his parents moved west to Iowa and located in Louisa county. There he grew to manhood and farmed until 1878 when he moved to Audubon county and rented the farm which his son, F. L., now owns and farms. Later, he purchased this farm and increased his holdings to four hundred acres. He is now living retired. Peter F. and Barbara Anderson were the parents of eight children, five of whom are still living, two being in this county, Mrs. Anna Caldwell and F. L., the subject of this sketch.

F. L. Anderson received practically all of his education in Audubon county and after leaving school, farmed with his father for a short time, following which he began farming for himself. For more than six years, he was a renter and farmed rented land in Douglas township. After about six

years, he moved to Ross, Iowa, and there engaged in the implement business for four years. In 1899 Mr. Anderson was elected sheriff of Audubon county and served four years, after which he moved to his father's farm and has been farming it since that time.

Mr. Anderson raises one hundred acres of corn which yields an average of fifty-five bushels to the acre. He also raises eighty acres of small grains, and ten acres of alfalfa; he sells all of this grain. Mr. Anderson is an extensive breeder of thoroughbred Clyde horses and has built up a good market for this breed.

On March 10, 1891, Mr. Anderson was married to Julia Baker, the daughter of Charles Baker. Six children have been born to this marriage: Frank, Dale, Hazel, Howard, Glenn and Helen. All of these children are unmarried and live at home with their parents.

Fraternally, Mr. Anderson is a member of the Masonic fraternity and of the commandery. Aside from the term as sheriff of Audubon county, which he served, he has also been township trustee and is the present secretary of the local school board. Mr. Anderson has always been affiliated with the Republican party.

F. L. Anderson not only filled the office of sheriff with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of the people of Audubon county, but he has also filled other positions of trust and responsibility with exceptional credit. He is today regarded as one of the leading farmers and citizens of Audubon county. The Anderson family is very popular in Cameron township and Mr. Anderson enjoys the personal friendship of a host of people living in Audubon county. His honor and integrity have always been above question.

THOMAS McMICHAEL.

Thomas McMichael, who owns one hundred and twenty acres of splendid land in Cameron township, Audubon county, Iowa, is one of the successful and skillful farmers of this township, who was born in Muscatine county, Iowa, March 19, 1855. Mr. McMichael's parents, James and Margaret (McCullough) McMichael, were natives of Ireland. James McMichael came to America when a young man and first located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he was married, and where he remained until he moved to Muscatine county, Iowa. There he purchased a farm and was engaged in farming the remainder of his life. He and his wife were the

parents of eight children, seven of whom are still living: James, William, Thomas, George, John, Anna and Barbara. The father of these children died on January 9, 1907 and the mother in March, 1914.

Thomas McMichael, the subject of this sketch, received practically all of his education in Muscatine county, Iowa, to which his parents had moved after leaving Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mr. McMichael's life during his youth was that of the average boy in this section of the state. After leaving school he worked with his father on the farm until 1882, when he was twenty-seven years old. He then moved to Audubon county and located in Cameron township, where he bought one hundred and twenty acres of land, the farm upon which he now lives and on which, at the time, the soil had never been broken, Mr. McMichael being the first to work the ground. He has put many valuable improvements upon the farm at a cost of at least four thousand dollars. Originally, he paid only eight dollars an acre for the land, but it is many times as valuable today. He raises forty acres of corn and at least twenty-five acres of small grain each year. He also feeds about twenty-five head of hogs and sells most of his grain.

Thomas McMichael was married on September 23, 1887, when he was thirty-two years old to Ettie Gray, the daughter of W. F. and Hannah (Crow) Gray. Two children, Homer and Leslie, have been born to this marriage, both of whom are unmarried and live at home with their parents.

Mrs. McMichael was born in Fayette county, Iowa; her father was a native of Canada and her mother of the state of Ohio. Her father came to Fayette county, Iowa, when a young man and was married there and farmed in that county until 1880, when he moved to Audubon county, locating in Cameron township, where he purchased eighty acres of land, from which he has retired and lives at Gray, Iowa. He and his wife had seven children, five of whom are now living: Alonzo, Arthur, Mrs. Effie Farnham, Mrs. Ethel Baldwin and Mrs. McMichael.

Mr. and Mrs. McMichael and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. McMichael is not identified with any political party, but is altogether independent in his voting. He has never been active in politics, however, and has never held office.

Few farmers in Cameron township have paid closer attention to the details of modern farming than Thomas McMichael and few men have a better farm than he. Not only is he considered a successful farmer but he is a man who has made many warm friends in this part of Audubon county—friends who respect and admire him for his high moral character and cordial, friendly manners.

JOHN E. SIEMSEN.

No farmer of Cameron township, Audubon county, Iowa, is more highly respected than John E. Siemsen, who is the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of land in Cameron township, and who is a native of Davenport, Iowa, having been born there on September 15, 1874. Mr. Siemsen is a son of Peter and Caroline (Jorgen) Siemsen, both natives of Hamburg, Germany. The former was a carpenter and followed this trade in his native land. On coming to America in 1867 he located in Davenport, Iowa, where he worked at his trade and lived in that city until 1882, when he removed to Audubon county, and located in Douglas township. Here he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land, operating this farm until 1905, when he retired from active farm life and removed to Audubon, where his death occurred in 1911. His wife is still living. Peter Siemsen paid ten and twelve dollars an acre for his first land purchased in Audubon county in 1882. He was the first to break the prairie sod, improved the place in various ways and developed a good farm. He served in the Danish War of 1848. Peter and Caroline Siemsen were the parents of six children, three of whom are living in this county, Mrs. Mary Nelson, Fred and John E., the others being, Charles, Mrs. Minnie Flagg and Mrs. Mollie Hood.

John E. Siemsen, after having completed his education in the public schools of Douglas township, Audubon county, attended business college at Glidden, Iowa, and upon completing a course in this institution, returned home and took up farming with his father, which vocation he followed until 1905, when he took over the complete management of the farm. At that time his father retired and moved to Audubon, where he spent the remainder of his life. About thirty-five hundred dollars have been invested in improving this place, and it is now one of the many good farms of this township. Mr. Siemsen raises thirty acres of small grain, forty acres of corn and sells about one-half of his grain, feeding the remainder to stock on his own place. His corn yields an average of fifty bushels to the acre. Besides raising about forty head of hogs each year on his place, he also raises thoroughbred Short-horn cattle, and has at the present time a herd of twenty head of these fine animals.

John E. Siemsen was married in 1905 to Ethel Farnham, the daughter of Charles Farnham, and of the six children born to this marriage, three are deceased, Glynn, James and John. The living children are Bessie, Nellie and Beatrice, all of whom are at home with their parents.

Fraternally, Mr. Siemsen is a member of the Modern Woodmen of

America, and is a member of the council in this order. He has been for several years identified with the Democratic party.

John E. Siensen, although a comparatively young man, has made satisfactory progress thus far in life, and what is best of all, he has won the good will of the people of Cameron township, where he lives. He is a young man of progressive spirit and good moral habits, and is an honor to the township and county where he makes his home.

JOHN RILEY, M. D.

The man who devotes his talents and energies to the noble work of ministering to the ills and alleviating the sufferings of humanity is pursuing a calling which in dignity, importance and beneficent results is second to no other. If true to his profession and earnest in his efforts to enlarge his sphere of usefulness, he is indeed a benefactor of his kind; for to him more than any other man are entrusted the safety, the comfort and, in many instances, the lives of those who place themselves under his care and profit by his services. Taking the foregoing into consideration and giving due credit to this noblest of professional callings, it is undoubtedly a mark of the highest distinction to have practiced continuously for thirty-five years in one locality and to be noted as the second oldest practicing physician in the county. Such is the record of the professional gentleman whose name forms the caption of this review. He is one of the honored and successful physicians of this section of the state, having for years ministered to the sick and ailing of Exira and vicinity, and is still actively engaged in the practice of his profession.

John Riley was born on August 18, 1850, in Cambridge, Illinois, son of Dr. John and Abigail (Burnett) Riley, natives of Saratoga county, New York. Abigail Burnett was of colonial origin and the father of the elder Dr. John Riley was of English descent. The family left the ancestral home in Saratoga county, New York, in 1847 and came west as far as Illinois. The senior Dr. John Riley was a physician of wide repute and followed his calling in Whiteside county, Illinois, with signal success. He was a graduate of the Castleton (Vermont) Medical College and came west the year following his graduation, in 1846. At that time Whiteside county was in process of settlement and Doctor Riley, the elder, was one of the pioneer physicians of the county. In fact, it is a matter of historical record that he was the first

physician to locate in Whiteside county and was the only one for several years. For a number of years he was located in Rock River, directly east of the city of Rock Island, his headquarters being practically in Morrison, the county seat of Whiteside county. He and his good wife now lie buried in Whiteside county.

John Riley, the younger, of whom this biography directly treats, attended the primitive schools in Whiteside county, and also studied in the Geneseo high school. He taught school for a period of six years, meanwhile pursuing the study of medicine in his father's office. Upon leaving the high school he studied at Quincy College, and later was graduated from Musselman's Business College at Quincy, Illinois. After completing his commercial course he was solicited to take charge of the commercial department of the Northern Illinois College at Fulton. He accepted the offer and continued his collegiate studies for two years while thus engaged. He then entered the Teachers' Training School at Clinton, Iowa, and taught in that institution while studying medicine. Continuing his preparation for the practice of his chosen profession, he was graduated from the medical department of the Iowa State University in 1880. Soon after his graduation Doctor Riley came to this county, locating at Exira, where he has practiced continuously ever since, a period of thirty-five years, and is now the second oldest physician in the county, in point of years of continuous practice. He has been very successful in his calling and has achieved considerable distinction as an able practitioner.

In August, 1880, Dr. John Riley was married to Mary Jane Powers, a talented woman, who, at the time of her marriage with Doctor Riley, was a teacher in Cedar Rapids. Mrs. Riley is an Ohioan by birth and is a graduate of the famous Ohio Wesleyan University, located in Delaware, Ohio. She was noted as being a very successful teacher, and has proved a fitting and capable helpmeet for her busy husband. Doctor and Mrs. Riley are the parents of two children, John C. Riley, a jeweler located in Exira, this county, and Ethel Mary, a member of the Episcopal Sisterhood of St. Mary's, in Chicago.

Doctor Riley is a Republican in politics, and is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, being attached to the blue lodge at Exira, the chapter and commandery at Audubon, to Za-Ga-Zig temple of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine at Des Moines. He also has membership in the Audubon County Medical Society, the Iowa State Medical Society and the American Medical Association.

The long years spent by Doctor Riley among the people of southern

Audubon county have endeared him to them beyond measure and his friends are legion. He and his wife are devoted to the best interests of the community and are active in all good works thereabout, being held in the highest regard by all who know them.

JOHN C. BONWELL.

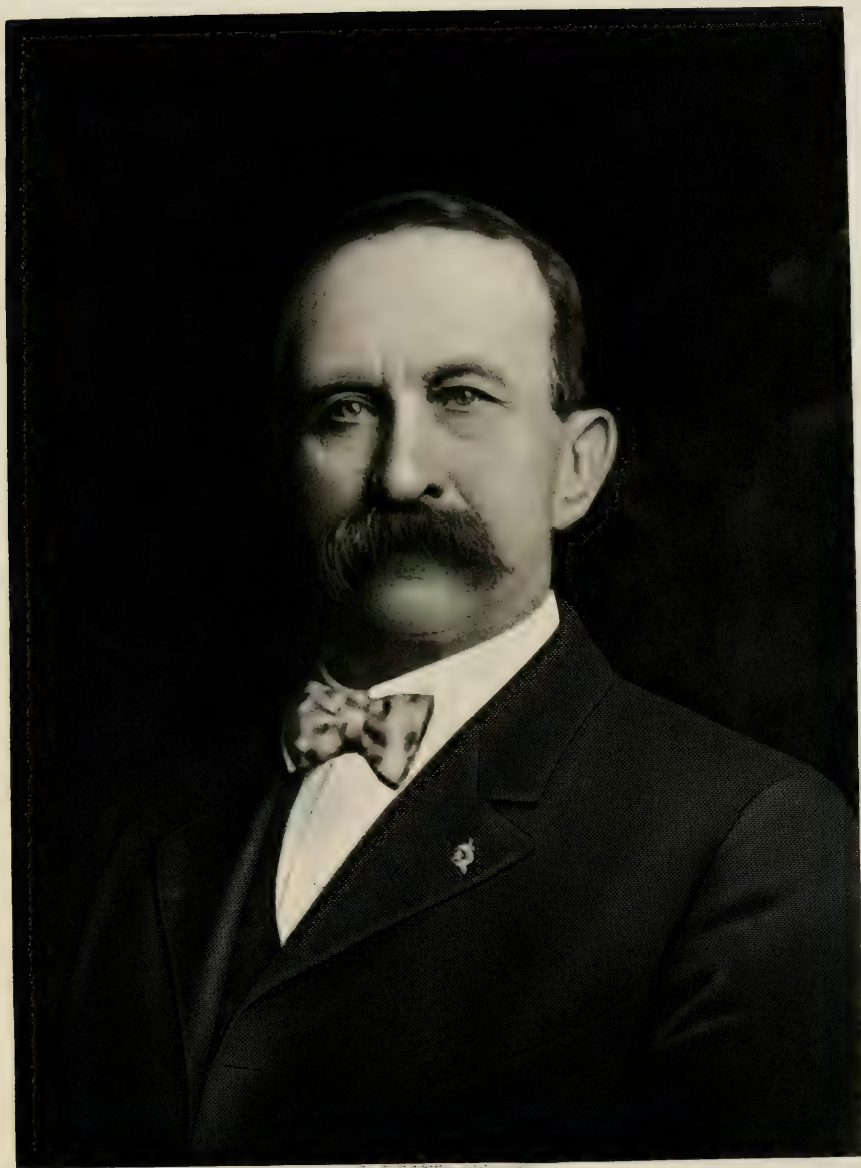
It is by no means an easy task to describe within the limits of this review, the career of a man who has led an active and eminently useful life, and, who by his own exertions, reached a position of honor and trust in the political life of the county with which his interests are allied. The biographer finds justification, nevertheless, in tracing and recording the chief facts in such a life history and the public claims a certain interest in the career of very individual, who has occupied a position of prominence. The time invariably arrives when men of this character are entitled to the proper recognition for their work, and it is with considerable satisfaction that the career of John C. Bonwell is briefly outlined in this sketch.

John C. Bonwell is a prominent farmer of Viola township, Audubon county, Iowa, who has served his township and county in many positions of trust and responsibility. He has served as a member of the Iowa General Assembly, as county supervisor of Audubon county and, in addition to these offices, he has filled practically all of the township offices.

John C. Bonwell was born in Ohio, on November 6, 1842. He is the son of Nathaniel and Charity (Lowman) Bonwell, natives of Virginia and Pennsylvania, respectively. The paternal great-grandfather of John C. Bonwell was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. The family originally came from Scotland to Ireland and from Ireland to Virginia. Mr. Bonwell's grandfather, Arthur Bonwell, owned a plantation in Virginia and also owned many slaves. He brought them to Brown county, Ohio, and freed them when he moved north, at the same time giving each slave forty acres of land. Nathaniel Bonwell owned a farm in Highland county and there reared his family. He died in Highland county in 1864.

John C. Bonwell attended school in the Northern Normal University at Lebanon, Ohio, and here received most of his education.

John C. Bonwell was a valiant soldier in the great Civil War. He enlisted in 1862 in Company F, Sixtieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and having served three months, was taken prisoner at Harper's Ferry and sent away to be exchanged. He came home after his parole and remained for two



John C. Bonwell

years or until 1864 when he re-enlisted in Company A, One Hundred and Seventy-fifth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was engaged in the battles of Spring Hill, Franklin and Nashville, Tennessee, and was mustered out of the service in June, 1865, at Nashville.

Mr. Bonwell was married in 1869 and came west to Jasper county, Iowa, settling in Monroe township. He taught school for two years and then took the position of bookkeeper in the First National Bank at Monroe.

In 1875 Mr. Bonwell moved to Exira and engaged there in the drug and grocery business which he continued for one year. He traded the store for three hundred and twenty acres of land in Viola township and a short time later moved to this farm. It was prairie land and Mr. Bonwell has placed splendid improvements upon this farm and planted many trees. At the time he took possession of the land, there was but a small shanty and a hay stable on it; some of the land, however, had been broken. Mr. Bonwell now has a modern home and has increased his holdings until he owns eleven hundred and twenty acres in Viola township. Since 1889 he has not been actively engaged in farming. He has dealt in cattle, purchased, fed and shipped them to the extent of two hundred head annually. During the past four years, however, he has lived retired, renting out the land which he owns.

John C. Bonwell has filled a large place in the political life of Audubon county. He is an ardent Republican and has filled almost all of the township offices, serving as county supervisor of Audubon county between 1899 and 1906. In 1906 he was elected representative in the Iowa Legislature. He served in the thirty-second General Assembly and in the extra session of the thirty-third. During the thirty-second General Assembly, he was a member of the various committees dealing with ways and means, agriculture, appropriations, claims, industrial schools, the state university, constitutional amendments, state educational institutions, and military affairs. During the thirty-third General Assembly, he was the chairman of the committee on roads and highways. He introduced the first good roads bill which was the forerunner of the bill now pending before the Iowa Legislature. During this session, Mr. Bonwell was a member of the different committees on ways and means; insurance, agriculture, schools and text books; the state university; compensation of public officers; public accounting, and military affairs. During this session, Mr. Bonwell introduced the Daylight Saloon bill and another bill making it a penal offense to assault a man in order to get a winter jail sentence. The honorable John C. Bonwell established an excellent record in both sessions of the Iowa General Assembly in which he

served; a record of which he and his constituents have reason to be very proud.

On December 27, 1869, John C. Bonwell was married to Mary Miller, who was born in Highland county, Ohio, March 7, 1846. She is the daughter of Jacob and Eliza Miller, natives of Ohio. Three children were born to this union, Pauline, who is the wife of Dr. H. E. Jewell, of Coon Rapids, Iowa, and has three children, John Bonwell and Harris Lee, twins, and Thurlow; Mrs. Gertrude Hoffman, who lives in Viola township and has one child, Violet; and Mrs. Leora May Jewell, who lives in Magnolia. Putnam county, Illinois.

Although Mr. Bonwell's father was a member of the Quaker church, Mr. Bonwell himself attends the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the chapter and commandery, of Audubon county, and Za-Ga-Zig Temple of the Mystic Shrine at Des Moines.

JOHN FAABORG.

One of the enterprising farmers of Sharon township, Audubon county, Iowa, the owner of a hundred and forty acres of splendid farming land in this township, is John Faaborg, who was born September 15, 1858, in Denmark, the son of Simon and Dorothy Faaborg, also natives of Denmark, who came to America in 1875, when their son John was seventeen years old, and located in Clinton county, where they rented a farm for five years. At the end of this period they moved to Shelby county, Iowa, and settled in Clay township, where they farmed for a time. Simon Faaborg died in Audubon county, July 4, 1899. His wife, however, had died many years previously, in 1875, shortly after their arrival in America. She had been the mother of six children.

After receiving a good education in the schools of his native land, John Faaborg worked out as a farm hand and came with his parents to America in 1875. After arriving in this country he worked out as a farm hand, until 1881, when he moved to Audubon county, and purchased forty acres of land, practically all of which was raw prairie. Mr. Faaborg broke the sod for the first time, paying seventeen dollars an acre for the first forty acres and eventually increased his acreage until he now owns a hundred and forty acres, upon which he has invested six thousand dollars in buildings, fences, drains and other improvements. Ordinarily, he raises sixty acres of corn, which

averages fifty bushels to the acre, and twenty-five acres of small grain, all of which he feeds to his hogs and cattle. From eighty to one hundred head of hogs are raised every year on the Faaborg farm.

John Faaborg was married in 1881 to Mary Petersen, daughter of Mads Petersen. Eleven children were born to this union as follow: Christian, Simon, Mads, Hans, Christena, Axel, Anna, Edith, Lydia, Anton and Otto. Of these children, Christian married Christena Olsen, and they have two children, Frederick and Christena; Hans married Mary Grave, and Anton married Helga Jacobsen; Christena married Martin Larson, and they have one child. After the death of Christian Faaborg's wife he was married to Dagmar Jensen, and by this second marriage there have been two children born, Mary and Rose.

John Faaborg is a member of the Danish Lutheran church, and was a trustee in this church. A Democrat in politics, Mr. Faaborg has served as school director in his township, and has always been interested in maintaining good schools in Sharon township. He is a man of modest and unassuming demeanor, who, although he is interested in public questions and the community welfare, has devoted his time and efforts principally to the interests of his family and to his vocation. Possessed with a natural liking for farming he has been very successful, and in his adopted country has been able to carve out a comfortable home where he will be able to live during his declining years in peace and comfort. John Faaborg has the good will of all his neighbors who respect him for his sterling manhood and unfailing integrity.

LOUIS E. TRAMP.

Among the families of Audubon county, whose members have worthily discharged their duties to their fellows and to their community, no family takes higher rank than that of the Tramps, who are today prominently identified with the business and social life of Audubon and the county at large. For many years the members of this family have stood for all that is best in business, educational, moral and social life. They have wielded an influence that has been potential in the development and welfare of Audubon county, and the various members are numbered among the enterprising and progressive citizens of this county. Because of the prominence which the family has enjoyed in manufacturing circles and in the business life of this county—the close relations which they have sustained to the welfare and

prosperity of this community—they are eminently entitled to representation in a work of this character.

Louis E. Tramp, a worthy representative of the second generation of the family in this county and the successor to the flourishing business established by his father, Charles L. Tramp, was born on March 22, 1880, in Bloomington, Illinois, son of Charles L. and Augusta D. (Damaska) Tramp. Louis E. Tramp was not yet a year old when the family moved to Audubon in 1881. He was educated in the Audubon schools, completing the high-school course, and worked for his father at making brick from the time he was a small boy. When twenty-one years of age, he and his brother purchased their father's brick plant and have since been engaged in operating that business.

On October 12, 1905, Louis E. Tramp was married to Anna L. McGinnis, daughter of Lewis A. and Lavenia (Hoak) McGinnis, to which union four children have been born, Worth W., Paul E., Harold M., who died at the age of three years, and William D. Louis E. Tramp is a Mason, having attained to the chapter in that order. He also is an Odd Fellow and has attained to the encampment of that order, and is likewise a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and of the Eastern Star. In his political views he is in conformance with the policies of the Republican party and gives a good citizen's attention to the political affairs of the county.

Lewis A. McGinnis, father of Mrs. Tramp, who is now living retired in Audubon, this county, was born on a farm in Champaign county, Ohio, November 8, 1845, a son of William Lewis and Sarah (Harbor) McGinnis, natives of Kentucky and Ohio, respectively, the former of whom was born in 1802, and died in 1882, and the latter of whom was born in 1807 and died in 1875. William Lewis McGinnis was the son of William McGinnis, a native of Kentucky, and a soldier of the War of 1812, whose parents migrated to that state from Pennsylvania. William Lewis and Sarah (Harbor) McGinnis were married in Ohio and spent the rest of their lives in that state, having been sixteen years old when the family settled in Champaign county in 1818. The father of William McGinnis settled in Kentucky before the Revolutionary War, and a brother of Simon Kenton, the famous pioneer and Indian fighter, was his brother-in-law. To William Lewis and Sarah (Harbor) McGinnis the following children were born: Anna, deceased; William Henry, who died in infancy; Susanna, deceased; Samuel H., who removed to California in 1858; John N. who lives in Illinois; Thomas J., who died in Kansas, and Lewis A., the father of Mrs. Louis E. Tramp.

On April 2, 1862, at the age of sixteen years, four months and twenty-four days, Lewis A. McGinnis enlisted at Columbus, Ohio, in Company A, Sixty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served for three years during the Civil War, being discharged at Goldsboro, North Carolina, on April 3, 1865. He fought in the second battle of Bull Run, at Chancellorsville and at Gettysburg. For eighteen months he was attached to the Army of the Potomac and fought at Freeman's Ford, White Sulphur Springs, Waterloo Bridge and Fairfax Court House. He also was engaged in the battle of Wahatchie, Mission Ridge, Burnt Hickory, Dallas, Kenesaw Mountain, Peachtree Creek and in the siege of Atlanta. From May 10 to September 1, 1864, he was under fire constantly. He was at Montietti Swamp, Georgia; Averysboro, North Carolina, and Bentonville, North Carolina. His captain was Fred S. Wallace and his regimental commanders were Colonel Schleich and Col. Stephen J. McGroarty. The generals in charge of the brigade in which Mr. McGinnis served were General Bohlen, who was killed at Freeman's Ford; General Schimmelpfennig, General Tindale and Colonel Robinson. The division commanders were Gen. Carl Schurz, Gen. A. S. Williams and Gen. Ward. During the battle of Bull Run, Mr. McGinnis was under General Sigel and also served under Gen. Joe Hooker, Gen. O. O. Howard and Gen. H. W. Slocum. While in the Army of the Potomac he was under Gen. John Pope, General McClellan, General Burnside and Gen. George Gordon Meade. Subsequently, he was transferred to the Army of the West and served under General Thomas. Returning home after the war he farmed for some time and in 1877 moved to Illinois, residing for some time in Vermilion county, that state. In 1901 he sold out his holdings there and came to Audubon county, locating in Audubon, the county seat, where he is living a retired life. Mr. McGinnis served as deputy county clerk of Audubon county and was elected county clerk in 1908 on the Republican ticket, and was re-elected in 1910, serving altogether four years, retiring on January 1, 1913. Mr. McGinnis is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and, fraternally, is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Order of the Eastern Star.

On September 13, 1870, Lewis A. McGinnis was married to Lavenia Hoak, of Champaign county, Ohio, who was born on August 27, 1849, daughter of Lemuel and Lucretia Hoak, to which union the following children were born: Gilbert, who died in 1876; Oron C., who lives in Los Angeles, California; Mrs. May Gray, of Greenville, Texas; Mr. Cora L. Barnett, who lives in Rush county, Indiana, southeast of Indianapolis; Mrs. Anna L. Tramp, and Lewis L., who lives at Waseca, Minnesota.

The Audubon Brick Company was started by Charles L. Tramp in the spring of 1882. He continued to operate the plant until in March, 1901, when it was taken charge of by Louis E. and Charles A. Tramp, his sons, who operated it until July, 1902, when Charles A. sold out to his brother, Benjamin F., who, with Louis E., has continued to operate the plant since that time. In November, 1909, a new and greatly enlarged plant was erected on the east side of the Nishnebotna, comprising four kilns, each with a capacity of fifty thousand bricks, the factory and drying-shed covering an area of fifty-two by a hundred and two feet, two floors. The steam dryer has a capacity of a hundred and sixty thousand three-inch drain tile, and there is a dryer, fifty-three by one hundred and thirty feet, with a capacity of ninety thousand three-inch drain tile. The third dryer, fifty-two by a hundred feet, has a capacity of forty-five thousand bricks. The operating department is run by a seventy-five horse-power engine with two boilers having a capacity of one hundred and thirty horse power, the equipment being modern in every respect and practically new. An average of twenty men are employed. The output is shipped over Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri and surrounding states. The firm manufactures building brick, drain tile and building tile, and manufactures one million five hundred thousand bricks annually, Louis E. Tramp occupying the position of general manager.

Charles L. Tramp, who established the above business, and who is now retired, was born on February 20, 1846, in the city of Waren, in Germany, the son of Frederick and Fredericka Tramp. Frederick Tramp was born in 1817 and died in 1879. He was a brickmaker by trade and also learned the trade of a hand-loom linen weaver in Germany. He came to America in the spring of 1855, landing in New York city on May 28, and reached Chicago on June 7. From Chicago he went to Long Grove, Lake county, Illinois, and on June 14 settled in Halfday, six miles south of Libertyville, and lived there until 1856, in which year he moved to Bloomington, Illinois, remaining there until 1868, when he moved to Atlanta, Illinois, where he started a small brick yard. There he resided and manufactured brick until 1874, in which year he moved to Lincoln, Logan county, Illinois, and manufactured brick for seven years, or until his death, in 1880. Frederick and Fredericka Tramp were the parents of six children, as follows: Mrs. Louisa Siebert, who lives at Bloomington, Illinois; Charles L., who is referred to here variously; Mrs. Henrietta Hecker, who lives at Audubon, this county; Harmon, who lives in Louisiana, Missouri; Mrs. Helen Dixon, who lives at Hastings, Nebraska, and L. W., who lives at Kansas City, Missouri.

Charles L. Tramp moved to Audubon, this county, with his family in

December, 1880, and as soon as possible engaged in the manufacture of building brick, manufacturing practically all of the brick used in the building of Audubon. He also manufactured the first tile in Audubon county, and brought the first tile machinery to this county. He was actively engaged in the manufacture of brick until 1901.

On November 3, 1870, Charles L. Tramp was married to Augusta Damaska, a native of Germany, born in 1847, who came to America in 1855 with her parents. She died on November 4, 1883, leaving seven children, namely: William and Harry, who live at Creston, Iowa; Lillie, the wife of Charles Poulson, of Seattle, Washington; Charles, a commercial traveler, who lives at Creston, Iowa; Louis E. and Benjamin F., who live at Audubon, and Virgil, who lives at Tulsa, Oklahoma.

On September 11, 1909, Charles L. Tramp married, secondly, Mrs. Jennie (Howard) Wilson, widow of Milo C. Wilson, of Nebraska, who was born in Columbia county, Wisconsin, in 1850, the daughter of William and Adeline (Bennett) Howard, natives of Kentucky and Indiana, respectively. William Howard died in Wisconsin and his widow thereafter lived with a daughter in Nebraska, where her last days were spent.

CHRISTIAN MARCUSEN.

In the respect that is accorded to men who have fought their own way to success through unfavorable environment we find an unconscious recognition of the intrinsic worth of character which can not only endure so rough a test, but gain new strength through discipline. Christian Marcusen, the gentleman to whom the biographer now calls the reader's attention, was not favored by inherited wealth or the assistance of influential friends; but in spite of this, by perseverance, industry and wise economy he has attained a comfortable station in life and has made his influence for good felt in Hamlin township, this county, where he resides and where he has long made his home. Because of the honorable career he has had in this county, Mr. Marcusen is eminently entitled to representation in this volume.

Christian Marcusen was born on March 12, 1868, in Sjaelland, Denmark, the son of Christian and Margretha (Jensen) Marcusen, the former of whom was born in the same place and the latter at Roskilde. Christian Marcusen, Sr., was a laborer in his native country and he and his wife were the parents of five children, all sons. The two eldest of these sons, Jens and

Hans, came to the United States in 1880 and located in this county. They saved their money and in 1882 sent back to the native country the funds with which their father and mother and the other sons paid their passage to this country, Christian Marcusen, Jr., being then fourteen years of age. He had received a fairly good education in Denmark and attended school some time after his arrival in this country, but not a great deal. He commenced "working out" at farm labor as soon as he arrived in this county, and was thus engaged until he was twenty-three years old, at which time he purchased sixty acres of land from his brother in Sharon township, one mile east of Kimballton, his father having bought forty acres alongside this farm, Christian lived with his parents and tended both farms. The father died in 1895, after which Christian purchased the interest of the other heirs in the home farm of forty acres, his mother making her home with him and keeping house for him until her death, in February, 1899. Christian Marcusen was on a visit in Denmark at the time of her death. The senior Christian Marcusen and three of his brothers served in the war between Denmark and Germany in 1846, the former being severely wounded during one of the battles. In 1864 two of the brothers were compelled to enlist the second time.

In 1901 Christian Marcusen sold his farm in Sharon township and purchased one hundred and sixty-three acres of land in section 18 of Hamlin township, moving to this farm in the following spring. In 1913 he built a large ten-room house, modern in every respect; equipped with a furnace, bath, hot and cold water, piped for gas and wired for electric light. Mr. Marcusen has also built several new out-buildings and remodeled others until now he has one of the best-improved farms in that section of the county.

On December 21, 1899, Christian Marcusen was married to Christine M. Byriel, of Audubon, who was born on September 11, 1881, in Schleswig, Germany, the daughter of Mathias and Marie (Mortesen) Byriel, also natives of Schleswig, so far as is known, who came to America in 1884, Christine Byriel being then but three years of age. Her father died when she was only five years old and her mother when she was twelve, after which she was compelled to make her own living. To Christian and Christine (Byriel) Marcusen five children have been born, two sons and three daughters, namely: Arthur C., born on January 15, 1902; Orla M., November 2, 1903; Margretha M., November 24, 1905; Lydia S., March 23, 1908, and Hilda M., January 30, 1910.

Mr. Marcusen is engaged in general farming and stock raising, feeding annually about one hundred head of hogs and milking about fifteen head of

cows. He is also interested in other enterprises and is a stockholder in the Elkhorn Telephone Company and the Sharon Creamery Company. Mr. Marcusen is a Democrat, but does not class himself as a politician and has never held office. His chief interests are confined to his family, his home and his farm. He is a member of the Danish Brotherhood, and he and his family are members of the Danish Lutheran church, active in the good works thereof and held in the highest esteem throughout that entire neighborhood.

GEORGE N. HIGLEY.

The biographies of successful men are instructive as guides and incentives to those whose careers are yet to be achieved. The examples they furnish of patient purpose and consecutive endeavor, strongly illustrate what is in the power of each to accomplish. George N. Higley, a well-known farmer of Viola township, Audubon county, Iowa, whose life story is here briefly set forth, is a conspicuous example of one who has lived to good purpose and reached a definite degree of success in a special sphere to which his talents and energies have been devoted.

George N. Higley was born in Ogle county, Illinois, July 2, 1858. He is the son of Abram and Sarah Ann (LaShell) Higley, the former of whom was a native of Vermont and the latter of Pennsylvania. The paternal grandparents of George N. Higley were natives of London, England. Mrs. Higley, the mother of George N., came from Pennsylvania to Illinois with her parents and here she was married to Abram Higley. Abram Higley and wife remained in Illinois until they retired and then moved to California, where Mr. Higley died. He and his wife were the parents of five children: Lutitia M., George N., Edward Birt, Edwin Miles and Effie Viola, deceased.

George N. Higley was educated in the common schools of Illinois and after completing his education, began farming in that state, which he continued for four years. He came to Iowa in 1885 and located in Viola township, where he first purchased eighty acres of land for twenty-three dollars and seventy-five cents an acre. He then added eighty acres and during all of this time has been engaged in mixed farming and stock breeding and feeding.

George N. Higley was married on November 10, 1880, to Ada Jeanette Shaffer, who was born on April 22, 1862, and is the daughter of William Henry and Mary Elizabeth (Berger) Shaffer, the former of whom was

a native of New York and the latter a native of Pennsylvania. They were married in Illinois, having come to that state early in life with their parents, who were farmers. William Henry and Mary Elizabeth Shaffer were the parents of ten children: Horace P., Mrs. Higley, Eliza Jane, Ann, Harry, deceased; Evelyn A., Cora Belle, William Walter, deceased; Ira V. and one who died in infancy.

To Mr. and Mrs. George N. Higley have been born four children: Stanley Boyd, born on July 21, 1885, and was accidentally killed on June 4, 1915; Cora Blanche, born March 11, 1891, who married William Olson, of Viola township; Bertha May, born June 12, 1894, and Bonita Elizabeth, born June 14, 1899.

Mr. Higley served as township trustee and assessor. He has served as school treasurer for twenty-two years. Religiously, he and his family are members of the Evangelical church. He served as a trustee of the church for some time and also as superintendent of the Sunday school for a number of years. Mr. Higley is a Republican and has been more or less active in the councils of his party. In this part of Audubon county, he has done his share as an influential factor in the Republican victories of the past. Mr. Higley is an enterprising and progressive citizen, a good farmer and a neighbor who is well liked by everybody.

ANDERS JENSEN.

Of the many worthy citizens of Sharon township, Audubon county, Iowa, who have been able to establish comfortable homes in their adopted country, is Anders Jensen, a native of Denmark, born on June 7, 1866, and who is the son of Jens and Karen Jensen. He is the owner of a splendid farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Sharon township.

Jens and Karen Jensen, both natives of Denmark, came to America in 1874 with their family and after living in Chicago, for a month, moved to Wisconsin, where the former worked in the shipyards for a year. They then settled near New Denmark close to Green Bay, Wisconsin, where he farmed and followed the carpenter's trade. Here he cleared thirty acres of timber land and lived for ten years, when the family came to Audubon county and located in Sharon township. In Sharon township Jens Jensen purchased eighty acres of land and farmed there until 1908 when he retired, and is now living in Kimballton. He has followed the carpenter's trade and farming after reaching the age of fifty years. Before coming to America, he served

in the Danish-Prussian War of 1864 and had a splendid record of military service in this war. He and his wife have been the parents of nine children as follow: Hans, Chris, Anders, Thorvald, Walter, Mary, Carrie, Kate, and Dagmar, deceased.

Anders Jensen, the subject of this sketch, was a lad of eight years when the family came to America and most of his education was received in the schools of Wisconsin. After his education was completed, he worked at the carpenter's trade which he followed until fourteen years ago. He purchased a farm in 1895 and rented it out until 1901. In this latter year he began farming for himself and has invested possibly five thousand dollars in various kinds of improvements on the farm. He now has a well-kept and highly productive farm in Sharon township. He raises forty acres of corn which averages about fifty bushels an acre, twenty acres of small grain and seventy head of hogs each year.

In 1899 Mr. Jensen was married to Anna Simeson, the daughter of Erick and Karen Simeson. To this marriage eight children have been born: Elvena, Dagmar, Astrid, Gunda, Edna, Erma, Herluf and Eleanora Christena.

Mr. and Mrs. Jensen are active in the Danish Lutheran church of which both are members and Mr. Jensen, who is a Democrat in politics, has also served as a school director in Sharon township. A successful farmer of this community, Anders Jensen is also one of the foremost citizens of the township and one of the citizens who are most highly respected and most favorably known. He is a worthy citizen of this great county, having prospered in this great democratic country, and is patriotic and loyal to his adopted country.

MARTIN P. MARDESEN.

The United States is the most cosmopolitan nation of the earth. Her citizens are drawn from every country and every clime and a residence of a few years in this country so imbues her adopted citizens with the American spirit that they become Americans indeed. No nation has furnished better or more substantial citizens for this country than the little kingdom of Denmark. From this splendid country have come thousands who have won honored places in the communities in which they settled. Among the many families who have come to this country from Denmark and settled in the state of Iowa there is none more loyal to their adopted country than the Mardesen family of Hamlin township, this county. Martin P. Mardesen,

the present head of this family in Hamlin township, is one of the best-known farmers and business men in Audubon county.

Martin P. Mardesen was born on January 31, 1846, in Schleswig, near Apenrada, Denmark, the son of Soren and Anna Mardesen, who were also born in Schleswig, the former near Apenrada, and the latter farther north. Soren Mardesen was a farmer and his father, Martin Mardesen, was a blacksmith. Soren Mardesen and wife were the parents of two children, Martin P. Mardesen having a sister, Anna Marguerite, two years younger than himself.

Martin P. Mardesen received a good common-school education, attending the school in the winter and working out in the summer. He came to America when twenty-one years old, landing at Quebec, Canada. He did not stop there long but came west to Davenport, Iowa, near which city he obtained work by the month on a farm. He stayed there four years and in 1871 moved to Cass county, Iowa, locating at Atlantic, at the same time purchasing forty acres of land in the southern part of Audubon county. As soon as he got a house built on this farm, he moved there. This was several years before the Atlantic-Audubon branch of the Rock Island railroad was built and Oakfield was the postoffice at that time. Atlantic was the nearest large town. Mr. Mardesen owned this forty acres for only three years, at the end of which time he sold it and purchased two hundred and seventy-six acres of land near Elkhorn, on which he lived for twenty-eight years and then sold it, purchasing, in 1901, three hundred and thirteen acres in section 27, of Hamlin township, this county. Mr. Mardesen moved to this farm in 1902, and has since made his home there.

In 1869 Martin P. Mardesen was married to Nancy J. McDowell, who was born in Pennsylvania, the daughter of John and Mary McDowell, of Scotch-Irish descent of very old families in the United States. To this union have been born seven children, Anna, John S., Thomas, Mary, Edward, Frank and Amanda. Anna married Mike Larsen and has six children, Martin, Mary, Charles, William, Henry and Helen. John S. married Sena Nelsen, of Danish parentage, but born in this country, and they have four children, Alfred, Esther, Arnold and Leona. Thomas married Grace Wells and has five children, George, Thelma, Eloween, Maxine and Harvey. Mary married Rasmus Nissen, of Elkhorn, and has eight children, Clarence, Florence, Rena, Frankie, Harvey, Melvin, Annabelle and Mildred. Edward married Sena Esbeck and has four children, Merlin, Leo, Vernon and Evelyn. Frank married Anna Petersen and has six children, Edna Alice, Imo, Esther, Erma, Lillian and Milo. Amanda married Chris Larsen, a

druggist at Elkhorn, and has five children, Herman, Merlin, Emert, Sidney and Curtis. The mother of these children died on November 16, 1901, and on April 12, 1904, Mr. Mardesen married, secondly, Mrs. Anna (Jensen) Steffensen, widow of Doctor Steffensen, of Elkhorn, who died on January 27, 1913.

Mr. Mardesen is a stockholder and was one of the organizers of the First National Bank at Exira, of which he was a director for three years. He also is a stockholder in the Elkhorn-Kimballton Lumber Company at Elkhorn and in the Elkhorn-Marne Telephone Company. He owns property in Exira and spends a great deal of his time there. Mr. Mardesen is identified with the Republican party and has served as school director and township trustee, besides filling other minor offices with credit to himself and satisfaction to the community. Mr. Mardesen and his family are members of the Danish Lutheran church, and are held in high regard throughout the community in which they are so well known.

EUGENE POTTER.

Eugene Potter, a general farmer and stock raiser of Douglas township, this county, who owns eighty acres of land in that township, was born on June 2, 1851, in New York, the son of James and Delia Potter, both natives of the Empire state. James Potter owned a farm of one hundred acres in New York state and was there engaged in farming until his death. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, of whom seven are still living, Laura, Dwane, Eugene, Fayette, Beavel, Alice and Eliza, all of whom, except Eugene and a brother at Coon Rapids, Iowa, live in the state of New York.

Eugene Potter's educational advantages were limited, as he was compelled to quit school at the age of fourteen and to engage in work on his father's farm, where he remained until reaching his majority, when he began working by the day in a saw-mill. After engaging in this occupation for seven years, he went to Illinois, where he engaged in farm work for one year, at the end of which time he came to Iowa, locating in Shelby county, and there worked for two years on various farms. After his marriage, in 1884, he rented a farm in Shelby county, on which he lived for three years and then purchased eighty acres in Douglas township, this county, for which he paid twenty-three dollars an acre. The farm, which is located in section 15, has been improved with an investment of approximately three thousand

dollars. Although Mr. Potter feeds some grain, the most of it he sells direct to the elevators in his neighborhood. He sells a few cattle and a few hogs each year.

In 1884 Eugene Potter was married to Katie Johnson, the daughter of David Johnson, of Shelby county, and to this union four children have been born, Grace, Lester, Ralph and one who died in infancy. Lester married Neola Reynolds and lives south of Coon Rapids, this state. He and his wife have one child. Ralph is farming the home place and Grace also lives at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Potter attend the Evangelical church. Mr. Potter is a Republican, but has taken little active interest in political matters. He is devoted to the interests of his home and his family and has lived to rear a family of children to useful lives. Mr. Potter has been a just man and has never exacted in friendship or business more than he was willing to grant to his neighbors. By his early toil, he has gained for himself a comfortable home, which, when his productive years have passed, he will be able to enjoy in calm security.

GEORGE A. CAMPBELL.

The biographies of successful men are instructive as guides and incentives to those whose careers are yet to be achieved. The examples they furnish of patient purpose and consecutive endeavor strongly illustrate what is in the power of each to accomplish. George A. Campbell, a well-known farmer of Melville township and the proprietor of five hundred and sixty acres of land, all located in that township, is a conspicuous example of one who has lived to good purpose and who has achieved a definite degree of success in the special sphere to which his talents and energies have been devoted.

George A. Campbell was born on March 5, 1860, in Lincoln, Illinois, the son of George Campbell and the brother of Thomas Campbell, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume. George A. Campbell and his brother, James, came to Iowa in 1884 and settled on a large tract of land which they had purchased in 1882. A sister kept house for the brothers until her marriage. George A. Campbell bought his first tract of two hundred acres in 1889, at twenty-two dollars and fifty cents an acre, and at that time there were very few improvements on the land. Mr. Campbell has built several barns on the farm and in 1908 he remodeled his house, making it thoroughly modern. Mr. Campbell has added to the original

home tract until it now comprises three hundred and twenty acres. He has besides this two other farms, on which there are three sets of buildings. He feeds practically all the time, from ninety to one hundred head of cattle and from seventy to one hundred head of hogs.

In 1884 George A. Campbell was married to Sophia Messersmith, a native of Indiana, and to this union have been born nine children, seven of whom are living, namely: Edward, who married Amy Murray and is at home; May, the wife of Fred McCoy, of Melville township; John, Mary, Ella, Frank and Ephraim, all at home. The two deceased children were George and Robert. Mr. and Mrs. Campbell are members of the Catholic church and their children have been reared in that faith. Mr. Campbell is a Democrat and served on the school board for twelve years, in which capacity he discharged the duties of his office to the satisfaction of the people of Melville township.

ROBERT H. GARNETT.

Among the men of sterling worth and strength of character in this county who have made an impression on the life of the locality in which they lived, none has achieved a larger meed of popular respect and regard than Robert H. Garnett. Mr. Garnett has lived in Audubon county for many years and this has given the people an opportunity to know every phase of his character. That he has been true to life in its every phase is manifest from the high confidence and regard in which he is held by the people of this county. Mr. Garnett is now living retired, having, by his early labors, acquired a substantial competence for his declining years.

Robert H. Garnett was born in Rock Island county, Illinois, about sixteen miles north of the city of Rock Island, on November 16, 1847, the son of William and Sarah (Brown) Garnett, natives of Pennsylvania, the former of whom was born at Westchester, near Philadelphia, and the latter near a town that was then called Bloody Run. The Garnetts are of English descent, William Garnett's father having been the first of the family to cross the Atlantic for America. Robert H. Garnett received his education in the public schools and lived at home until he was twenty-one years old. In 1881 he came to Iowa and located in Greeley township, this county, where he purchased two hundred acres of railroad land in section 5. Later he sold forty acres of that farm and purchased eighty acres more, adjoining his farm on the northwest. In 1896 Mr. Garnett moved to Audubon, but after two years moved back to the farm where he lived until 1905, in which year he retired

and moved to Hamlin, where he now lives and where he owns one of the pleasantest homes in the town.

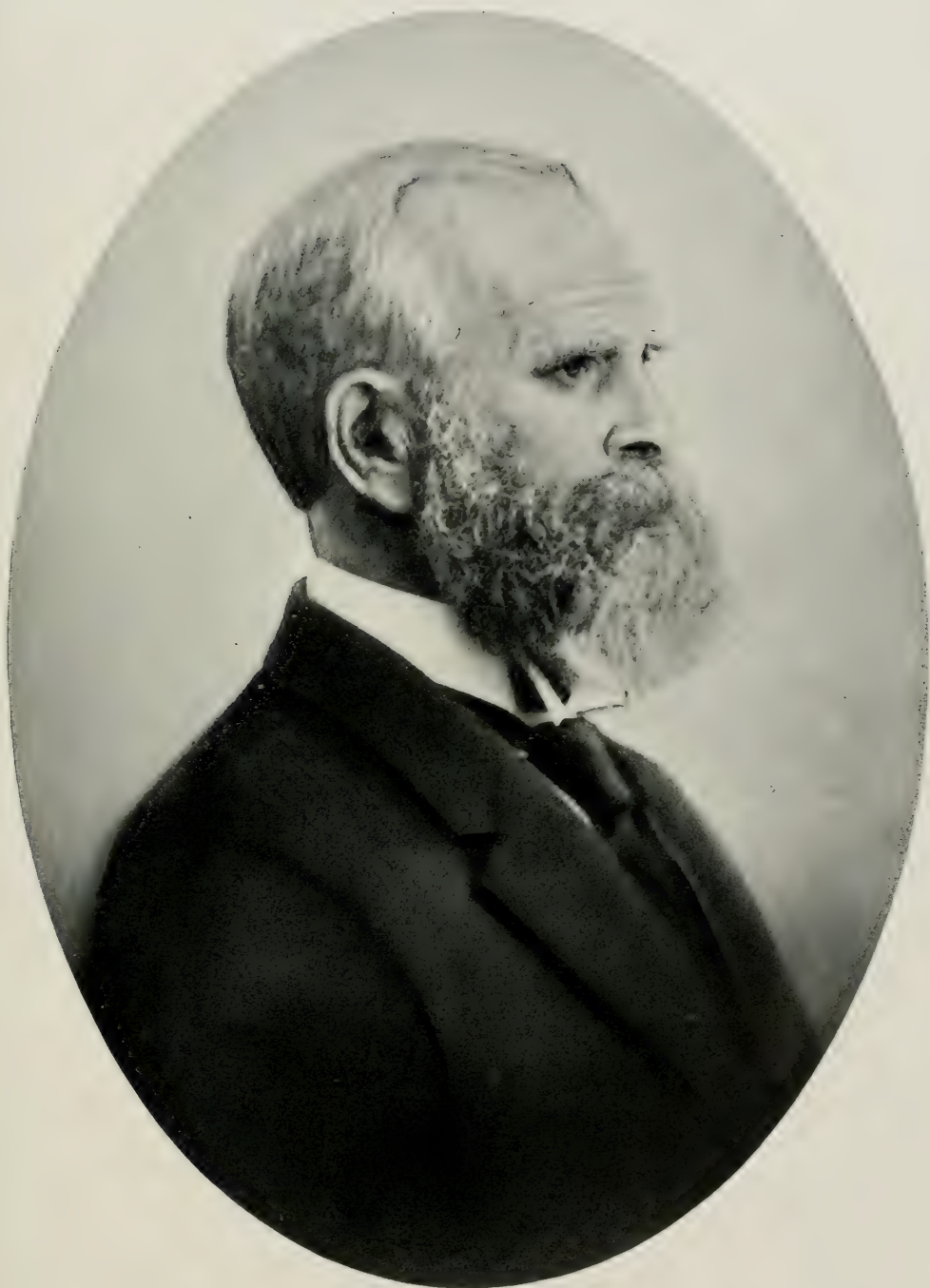
On August 23, 1871, in Rock Island county, Illinois, Robert H. Garnett was married to Jeanette I. Clark, who was born in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, on October 12, 1853, the daughter of George W. and Mary A. (Horton) Clark, natives of Baltimore, Maryland, and Tarentum, Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, respectively. The Clarks were of Scottish descent, Mrs. Garnett's great-grandparents having emigrated from Scotland to this country. George W. Clark was a carriage-maker in his earlier days, but later in life took up farming. To Robert H. and Jeanette I. (Clark) Garnett two children have been born, Carrie E., born on September 2, 1872, who married James White, and has six children, Harry, Walter, Ruth, Ralph, Helen and Wayne, and Charles R., November 30, 1878, who married Jessie Gerard and has two children, George R. and Franklin M. Both of Mr. Garnett's children live on his farms.

Mr. Garnett is a Democrat and served as township clerk in Illinois before coming to Iowa. He also has served two terms as township trustee of Greeley township, in this county, and for seven years was postmaster at Hamlin, filling all these offices with credit to himself and with satisfaction to the public. No better testimonial of the esteem in which he is held by the people of this county can be offered than his successive elections or appointments to important offices. Mr. and Mrs. Garnett and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are enthusiastic and faithful supporters of this denomination. They are earnest in all good works and enjoy the highest esteem of the entire neighborhood.

ARTHUR KITSON.

Representing one of the oldest and best-known families of Viola township, Audubon county, Iowa, and himself a man of enterprise and sterling worth, Arthur Kitson is well entitled to notice among the substantial citizens of Viola township. Although Mr. Kitson is now living retired, it is with much satisfaction that the opportunity is availed of to place the story of his life before the readers of this important historical work.

Arthur Kitson is a native of England. He was born on October 24, 1850, at 34 Albert Square, Kennington, South London, England. He is the son of Wils and Hannah (Rhodes) Kitson. Wils Kitson was a government official and received a salary of one thousand pounds (five thousand dollars)



ARTHUR KITSON

annually. He was at the head of a department when his health failed, and he retired on a pension of three hundred and fifty pounds (seventeen hundred and fifty dollars) annually. Both he and his wife died in England.

Arthur Kitson learned the worsted trade and became an expert in preparing wool. He worked for a Mr. Wildman and afterwards a Mr. Saltair, in a mill employing four thousand people. In 1874 Mr. Kitson came to America and joined a cousin, William Fyfe, at Wiota, Cass county, Iowa, where he remained one year. He rented land in Cass county and was a farmer there. He rented land of Roger Robinson for one year, and also rented for one year from J. B. McDermott. In 1877 Mr. Kitson moved to Audubon county, where he purchased land in section 15, Lincoln township, at fifteen and fifteen and one-half dollars an acre. He bought raw prairie land and at this time his nearest neighbor lived three miles away. He was a pioneer in Lincoln township, where the land was very thinly settled and the markets far away. Mr. Kitson "batched" for five years and was married in 1881. In 1906 he left Lincoln township having sold his farm of two hundred acres at thirty-one and one-half dollars and eighty acres at eighty-five dollars per acre. He began with one hundred and sixty acres in Viola township and added eighty acres at twenty dollars an acre. He sold forty acres at twenty-three dollars an acre. Subsequently, he went security on a note and got into financial difficulties. After this incident he moved to eighty acres of land which he purchased at thirty-two and one-half dollars an acre from John Hinch. Here he lived for eight years or until 1907. He sold this farm in the fall of 1906 and bought one hundred and sixty acres in section 34 of Viola township, where he has since resided.

Mr. Kitson was married in May, 1881, to Julia Carpenter. Six children have been born to this marriage, one of whom is deceased. They are Ethel, the wife of Albert Clevenger, of Minnesota; Annie, deceased; Harry, who is a student at the University at Oskaloosa, Iowa; Walter and Burt, twins, the former a student of medicine at Iowa University at Iowa City, and the latter operating the home farm; and Lillian Marian, who lives at home. Mrs. Kitson was born in Devonshire, England, October 13, 1858, and came to this country in 1875 with her uncle, George Chamberlain. Upon arriving in this country, they located in Cass county, Iowa.

Mr. Kitson is an independent voter in politics but a stanch Prohibitionist and supports measures and men rather than parties and party emblems. He and his wife are members of the Evangelical church and are good Christian people. They are respected citizens of this community and eminently deserve to be included in the biographical annals of Audubon county.

HANS J. HANSEN.

The best history of a community or state is that which deals most largely with the lives and activities of the people; especially of those who by their own endeavors and by the exercise of indomitable energy have forged to the front and placed themselves in a position where they deserve to be called progressive citizens. In this brief review will be found the record of Hans J. Hansen, a man who has outstripped those less active on the highway of life and who has achieved a career of marked success in farming, his name being one which his neighbors delight to honor on account of his upright life and habits of thrift and industry.

Hans J. Hansen was born in Denmark on April 23, 1858, son of Andrew and Gesten (Hansen) Hansen, natives of the same country and the parents of four children, of whom Hans J. is the eldest. Andrew Hansen was a wheel-maker by trade. Hans J. Hansen worked on the farm in his boyhood days and when twenty-four years of age came to the United States, landing in New York city; shortly afterward coming to Audubon county, where he has lived ever since. For three years after his arrival here he worked by the month and then purchased forty acres of land and rented some additional land. He gradually has added to his holdings until he now owns two hundred and eighty acres of as good land as there is in Audubon county. Mr. Hansen's first home was in Sharon township, but in 1907 he bought land adjoining the town of Hamlin and built a large eleven-room house. His barn is also a fine building and there are cribs, granaries, hog houses and other out-buildings, all erected according to the latest approved plans.

On March 6, 1885, Hans J. Hansen was married to Mary Christina Rasmussen, of Sharon township, who was born in Denmark and came to the United States in 1883, and to this union four children have been born, Christina, Mary, Andrew and Alfred, all of whom are living at home save Christina, who married Chris Mulbur, and who has three children, Olivia, Emmet and Hilma.

Mr. and Mrs. Hansen attend and support the Danish Lutheran church. Mr. Hansen is a Democrat, but has never held office, devoting almost all his time to the work on his farm, which shows convincing evidences of his careful attention and management. Mr. Hansen helped organize the Farmers and Savings Bank of Hamlin and is vice-president of the bank. He also owns an interest in the lumber yard at Hamlin and is otherwise prominent in the business life of the community in which he lives.

When it is remembered that Hans J. Hansen came to America with no

money and with few friends in this country and that he has within a comparatively short time amassed a comfortable fortune, too much credit cannot be given to him for his industry, frugality and good management. He is a good citizen of his adopted country and is admired and respected by all his neighbors and friends, he and his family being held in the highest regard throughout that whole section.

GEORGE M. ROSS.

George M. Ross, a prosperous and successful farmer of Cameron township, Audubon county, Iowa, is a native of the great Keystone state, and may justly bear the distinction of being a self-made man. He has worked his way up unaided from the humble ranks of the toiler through the vicissitudes and adversities of life to an admirable and influential position among the leading farmers of Audubon county. The success attained by him in his business affairs has been due to his steady persistence, unfailing integrity and excellent judgment,—qualities which have also won for him the confidence and esteem of the public to an unwonted degree.

George M. Ross was born on May 4, 1851, in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, and is the son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Cowen) Ross, both natives of Ireland. They came to this country with their parents when quite young. They were married in America. Samuel Ross remained in Pennsylvania all of his life and was a farmer in that state. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, Robert, Richard C., Mary Ann, Samuel J., deceased; George M., Sarah, David and John M.

George M. Ross was educated in the common schools of Indiana county, Pennsylvania. After leaving school, he took up the cigar business in Louisville, Kentucky, and was there for five years. In 1876 he moved to Page county, where he began farming. Two years later, he moved to Audubon county and in 1878 settled on a farm in Cameron township. He bought a half section of land at this time and now owns eight hundred acres in Cameron township and two hundred acres in Lincoln township, all of which is devoted to mixed farming. He is an extensive breeder of Hereford cattle and has a herd of one hundred head, all of which are registered. Mr. Ross has built up a great business and has many calls which come from all parts of the country for his choicest animals.

George M. Ross was married on May 23, 1878, to Alice C. Price, the

daughter of William F. and Lydia A. (Smith) Price. They were natives of West Virginia and came to eastern Iowa and settled in Henry county after their marriage. He was a well-known Methodist minister in the state of Iowa. They were the parents of nine children, John L., Harriett J., Elizabeth, Alice C., Luella B., E. D., W. A., Eugenia and Nellie. It is a remarkable fact that all of these children are still living.

To Mr. and Mrs. George M. Ross have been born five children: Cameron, who lives at Gray, Iowa; Bessie, who lives at home; George, who is an artist in Chicago, who married Julia Clark; Samuel married Iola Johnson; and Carl, at home.

George M. Ross is one of the most influential citizens of Audubon county, not only by virtue of his large farm holdings, but by virtue of his genial disposition and his natural capacity for leadership. He has served in practically all of the township offices and is an ardent Republican, and has been active for many years in the councils of this party. Mr. Ross served as county supervisor for two terms. Fraternally, he is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and has been prominent in this organization.

ROY A. LANTZ.

A native-born citizen of the great Hawkeye state and a prominent young doctor of veterinary surgery at Exira is Roy A. Lantz, who was born at Oakland, Iowa, November 26, 1889, the son of Richard H. and Sarah (Becker) Lantz, both natives of Illinois.

Richard H. Lantz grew to manhood in his native state and was there married. After his marriage, he clerked in his father's store at Afulka, Illinois, and also farmed. He engaged in farming for a few years after his marriage and subsequently moved to Oakfield, Iowa, where he rented his father's farm and managed it for a few years. He then moved to Nebraska and purchased a farm of eighty acres and here he farmed for himself for seven years, when he returned to a farm near Oakfield, which he rented. After being located near Oakfield for some time, he bought a farm near Anita, Iowa, consisting of two hundred acres and is now engaged in general farming and stock raising. Richard H. and Sarah Lantz had six children: William, May, Roy, Earl, Raymond and Merrill. William married Maud Faulkner; May married Rollie May; Merrill is deceased.

After being educated in the public schools of Nebraska and Iowa, and

having attended the Highland Park College of Pharmacy for one year, Dr. Roy A. Lantz attended the Kansas City Veterinary College for three years and on April 10, 1913, received the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. It must be conceded, therefore, that few veterinarians have had a better training for their profession than Doctor Lantz, and this superior training, which was quickly recognized by the people of Audubon county, has been responsible for the flourishing practice which he has built up in such a short time. Since his graduation, he has been practicing in Exira.

Within a few months after being graduated from the Kansas City Veterinary College, Doctor Lantz was married on September 16, 1913, to Mildred Worthing, the daughter of Frank and Ella (Morgan) Worthing, and they now live in a comfortable home in Exira.

Doctor and Mrs. Lantz are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Woodmen of the World. He is a Republican in politics, but has never held office nor has he ever aspired to office.

Dr. Roy A. Lantz is a man who is not only well learned in his profession, but he is a man of most pleasing personality and who is well read and well informed on subjects of common interest. He never lags in his duties nor in his work and freely meets persons in all stations of life, with an ease which has made him very popular.

JOHN TWIST.

Among the citizens of Melville township, this county, who have built up comfortable homes and surrounded themselves with real and personal prosperity, none has attained a higher degree of success than John Twist. With few opportunities except those his own efforts were capable of mastering, and with many discouragements to overcome, he has made an exceptional success of life, and has the gratification of knowing that the community in which he has resided has been benefited by his presence and counsels.

John Twist was born in England on November 26, 1862, a son of William and Mary (Green) Twist, whose lives were spent in England, their native country. William Twist was a bricklayer by trade, which occupation he followed all his life.

John Twist came to America just after he had reached his majority. He was married in 1882, after which he came to the United States, arriving

here on Christmas eve, 1883. He proceeded at once to Illinois and settled at Port Byron, where he lived for ten years, farming on land rented for that purpose. In 1896 he came to Iowa, and rented a farm in Greeley township, this county. By dint of patient industry and economy he was enabled to buy some land with the savings which he had accumulated, and in October, 1906, purchased three hundred and twenty acres, for which he agreed to pay the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars. Mr. Twist has made many improvements on the land, erecting corn cribs and other out-buildings, and now has a model farm in every respect, the farm having greatly increased in value since it has been in his possession. The land is in the famed corn belt of Iowa, and Mr. Twist ordinarily raises one hundred and twenty acres of corn annually, this acreage yielding more than fifty bushels to the acre. Mr. Twist feeds from sixty to seventy head of cattle each year, and from one hundred and seventy-five to two hundred head of hogs annually for the markets. Thus it is apparent that he is one of the largest farmers in Melville township, as well as one of the foremost citizens thereof, and has had much to do with the material progress of the county since coming here.

On January 27, 1882, John Twist was married to Emma Jane Wright, daughter of Samuel and Jane Wright, both natives of England. Mrs. Twist was born in England on October 15, 1865, and her marriage took place in that country. John Twist and wife are the parents of the following children: Robert, of Audubon, Iowa; Margaret, the wife of Jason Jones, of Audubon; Earl, a farmer of Melville township, and William, Nellie, Benjamin, Ivan and Ruth, who are still living under the parental roof. Robert Twist married Zena May Carter, and they have three children, Merle Emma, Helen Lucile and Veda May. Mrs. Margaret Jones has two children, Evelyn Beatrice and Bernice Olivene. Nellie Twist married Lona Peppers and has one child, Sherman.

John Twist, judged from any standpoint, is a self-made man. He is well informed, few farmers in the county having a wider fund of information. He considers himself an independent voter, but is a keen admirer of Colonel Roosevelt, and is inclined to endorse the principles and measures announced by the Progressive party. Personally, few men are more sociable and hospitable than John Twist, and few men are more richly deserving the confidence and respect of their fellow citizens than he.

Mr. and Mrs. Twist and family are earnest and faithful members of the Evangelical church; actively interested in the affairs of that denomination, and are liberal contributors to its support.

REV. HENRY PHILLIPS GRINYER.

It is not often that an individual may turn from a trade which he has fairly learned, to a profession, and make a success in the second case. Before the Rev. Henry Phillips Grinyer, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church of Exira, this county, became a minister of the gospel, he was a skillful tailor and cutter. In fact Mr. Grinyer became a "local" preacher near St. Thomas, Ontario, while he was still engaged in following his trade. The Rev. Mr. Grinyer, who became the pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church at Exira in 1913, has proved himself to be an able preacher. He has neglected none of his pastoral duties and is exceedingly popular with his congregation.

The Rev. Henry Phillips Grinyer is not a native of this county. He was born in Canada on April 1, 1870, son of James and Matilda (Duffin) Grinyer. James Grinyer was a native of Brighton, England, and his wife, of Merriton, Ontario, Canada. James Grinyer was born in 1842, and emigrated to Canada with his parents when he was eight years old. They settled near Caledonia, and there his father was a farmer. James Grinyer grew to manhood near Caledonia, Canada, and received his early education in the schools of that vicinity. After leaving school he took up the trade of a saddler and followed that trade all his life, until his death in 1912. His wife had died in 1876, more than a quarter of a century previously. In 1885, nine years after the death of his wife, James Grinyer moved to Illinois and spent the rest of his life in that state, his death occurring at Galena. Henry Phillips Grinyer is the youngest and sole survivor of six children born to his parents, the others having been William, two sons named Samuel, Margaret Jane and Mary.

After having received his early education in the common schools of Hagersville, Ontario, and after having completed a high-school course of three years, Mr. Grinyer took up the tailor's trade and became very proficient as a tailor and cutter. He worked at this trade until he was thirty-seven years old, during part of which time he was also engaged in preaching. In 1896 he started out as a "local" preacher, near St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada. He lived at Moorefield for two years and in 1902 moved to Cargill, Canada, where he remained for five years, or until 1907, when he came to the United States, and was stationed at East Peru, Iowa, as the pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church at that place. From East Peru he went to Waukee, Iowa, and remained there as pastor for two years. After a pastorate at Waukee, Rev. Henry Phillips Grinyer removed to Griswold, Iowa, and

was located there until in September, 1913, at which time he became the pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church at Exira. He also has charge of the churches at Hamlin and Buck Creek, dividing his time among these three charges.

On October 15, 1892, the Rev. Henry Phillips Grinyer was married to Sarah Ann Geddes, daughter of C. R. and Charlotte Geddes, and to this union three children have been born, Gladys, Myrtle and Carleton. Gladys married C. T. Cocklin, and has one child, Harvey Ross.

The subject of this sketch is conscientiously and sincerely devoted to the ministry of the Gospel. He is a forceful preacher and a man of genial personality, two factors that have contributed to make his career a success. He takes no active part in politics but votes independently of parties and party emblems and the candidates of parties. Rev. Henry Phillips Grinyer in the several localities in which he has labored has proved himself to be an efficient, upright and honorable citizen, and is held in the very highest esteem by all who know him.

JAMES C. STRAHL.

James C. Strahl, who owns a splendid farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Viola township, this county, was born on August 13, 1875, in Ogle county, Illinois, the son of Mead and Alice Strahl, the former of whom was born in Columbus, Ohio, and the latter of whom was born in Ogle county, Illinois, where their marriage took place and where they were engaged in farming until 1884, when they came to Audubon county. Mead Strahl was reared by his grandfather, and worked for him in the transfer business in Columbus, Ohio, until the Civil War broke out, when he enlisted as a private soldier in Company E, Fifteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. After the war he worked by the month for five years, or until his marriage. Upon coming to Audubon county he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 17, Viola township, and lived in that township until in 1899, when he retired to Dedham, Iowa, where he now lives. Mead Strahl and wife were the parents of eleven children, Eva, Ida, James C., Ella, Fred, Will, Myrtle, Pearl, Verna, Bessie and Frank, the latter of whom is deceased.

Educated partly in the public schools in Illinois and partly in the public schools of Viola township, this county, James C. Strahl quit school at the age of seventeen, and began working for his father, continuing this form of

employment until he reached his majority, after which he rented land in Viola township, where he lived for nine years, after which, in 1904, he bought one hundred and twenty acres of his father's farm, on which he now lives. Mr. Strahl feeds all his grain to live stock, raising a few head of cattle and about fifty head of hogs annually. He has spent about four thousand dollars in buildings, fences and drains, improvements which have been added to the farm since he purchased it.

In 1897 James C. Strahl was married to Mary Alice Winters, daughter of Thomas Winters, of Viola township, and to this union three children have been born, Bonita Alice, Dorothy Lelia and Margaret Almyra, all of whom are now attending school.

Mr. Strahl is a Democrat and served as a school director for five years. Although not members of any church, Mr. and Mrs. Strahl and family attend the Methodist Episcopal church, and are liberal contributors to the support of that denomination. His father, having given three years of his life to the service of his country, James C. Strahl may well be considered one of the heroes of peace, who in the community in which he lives is known as a good citizen, thoroughly in sympathy with our republican institutions, and whose support in behalf of law and order may always be depended upon. Mr. Strahl has a host of friends in Viola township, where he is well known and where he and his family are held in high esteem.

THOMAS HENRY TURNER.

A representative of one of the very oldest families of Audubon county and himself a resident of this county for many years, no citizen enjoys to a higher degree the genuine esteem and confidence of the people at large than Thomas Henry Turner, who, until February 1, 1915, was a well-known farmer of Cameron township. On that date, Mr. Turner had a large sale and moved to Audubon. A public-school teacher with a notable record and for many years an incumbent of public office, the duties of which he discharged with eminent ability, with honor to himself and satisfaction to the people who elected him, he has in his personal life met with eminent success, standing very high as a business man and farmer.

Thomas Henry Turner was born on July 14, 1856, in Cedar Ford, Jefferson county, Iowa, the son of Thomas N. and M. Margaret (McKinney) Turner, natives of Kentucky, of Scottish descent, the former of whom was

born in 1826 and died in October, 1910, and the latter of whom was born in 1832 and died in 1872. The paternal grandfather of Thomas H. Turner came from Scotland and settled in Virginia. Mr. Turner's parents moved to Henry county, Iowa, in the spring of 1857 and there spent the rest of their lives. Thomas N. Turner was twice married. By his first marriage ten sons were born, William L., John F., S. Mitchell, Thomas Henry, Perry M., Z. Charles (deceased), David F. (deceased), J. Oscar (deceased), B. Howard and M. Luther. Following the death of the mother of these children in 1872, Thomas N. Turner married, secondly, Mary Hawk.

Thomas H. Turner was reared in Henry county, Iowa, and attended Howe's Academy. After completing his education, he entered upon his remarkable career as a school teacher, farming during the summers and teaching during the winters. He came to Audubon county in the winter of 1880, continuing his calling as teacher here, and has probably had more experience in the school room than any other teacher in the county, he having fifty-four terms of school to his credit, a most notable record. His children were taught by him in the public schools which he conducted and hundreds of the youth of this community have been influenced for good by his competent instructions.

In 1900 Thomas H. Turner purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Melville township at forty dollars an acre. He sold it in 1909 for one hundred and twenty dollars an acre and bought two hundred and eighty acres in sections 25 and 26, Cameron township, at one hundred and twenty dollars an acre. He keeps thoroughbred stock, makes a specialty of Durham and Shorthorn cattle as well as Duroc-Jersey hogs and is very well circumstanced as to world's goods, being regarded as one of the county's most substantial citizens.

On November 26, 1889, Thomas H. Turner was married to Eva R. Fancher, who was born in Keokuk county, Iowa, July 12, 1862, the daughter of William N. and Rebecca Fancher, natives of New York and Indiana, respectively, who came to Audubon county in 1880 and spent the rest of their lives here. To this happy union the following children have been born: Clarence C., who owns a bakery in Audubon; Earl A., who is a grain and live-stock merchant at Ross, Iowa; Nellie B., who is in partnership with Clarence C.; Lloyd M., who is a farmer and lives at home; T. Glen, who is a student in the law department of the state university at Iowa City, and Bessie C., who is attending the high school at Audubon.

Mr. and Mrs. Turner and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are earnest supporters of all good works hereabout. Mr.

Turner is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a Republican and has served as justice of the peace and in practically all of the township offices of Cameron township, and no man in this county is held in higher regard or enjoys more fully the confidence of the public, he and his family being held in the highest esteem by all.

CHRIS CHRISTENSEN.

Among the well-known citizens of this county, Chris Christensen, a retired farmer, has made a success of his chosen life work, and at the same time has established an enviable reputation for honesty, integrity and cordial feelings with his fellow men. There is, therefore, a measure of satisfaction in presenting even a brief resume of the life and achievements of Mr. Christensen. His success should be interesting and instructive to the present generation of young men who are just starting out in life, and whose careers are yet unformed.

Chris Christensen was born in Denmark on September 5, 1875, the son of Hans Peter and Johanna (Adamson) Christensen. Hans Peter Christensen emigrated with his family to America in 1879, settling near Kimballton, in Sharon township, this county, where he following the life of a farmer the rest of his days. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, six of whom are still living, Mars, Bertel, Andrew, Chris, Margaretta and Katherine. The mother of these children is still living at the age of eighty-two years.

Chris Christensen was educated in the public schools of his native land, and in 1877 came to the United States, arriving in this country two years before his parents came. He settled first in Scott county, Iowa, where he remained seven years, at the end of which time he moved to Taylor county, this state, where he resided for four years, and in 1888 came to Audubon county. Upon arriving here he purchased a farm and has since lived in this county. Mr. Christensen first purchased one hundred and twenty acres, to which he added from time to time until he became the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of splendid land. Recently he sold four hundred acres to his different sons, retaining only about eighty acres. Mr. Christensen also owns a fine home in the city of Audubon, and there he is now living retired, surrounded by all the comforts and conveniences of modern life.

On January 16, 1883, Chris Christensen was married to Dorothy Adam-

son, who was born in Denmark, daughter of Soren and Kisten Maria (Jersensen) Adamson, and who came to the United States in 1882. To this union seven children have been born, namely: Hans P., a farmer of Sharon township; Soren, John and Andrew, farmers in Sharon township; Allie, who became the wife of Hans Johnson, a farmer of Douglas township; Hannah, who is keeping house for her brother, John, and Elda, living at home.

Mr. Christensen is a Republican, although he has never been especially active in political affairs. He and his family are members of the Danish Lutheran church, and are deeply interested in the welfare of that denomination, and liberal contributors to its support. In all the relations of life Mr. Christensen has shown himself as eminently worthy of the respect and esteem which are accorded him by his neighbors and fellow citizens.

BIRD LEFFLER.

Hard and laborious work was the lot of Bird Leffler during his youth and early manhood, but his fidelity to duty has won for him the respect and confidence of those with whom he has been thrown in contact, and by patient continuance in well-doing, he has gradually risen from a humble station to his present standing as a progressive young farmer of Audubon county. He has worked his way from a modest beginning to a position of considerable prominence by efforts which have been practically unaided; a fact which renders him the more worthy of praise, and this is freely accorded him by his fellow citizens.

Bird Leffler was born on January 3, 1880, at old Hamlin, this county, a son of George and Josephine (Wilson) Leffler, the former of whom was born on October 18, 1847, in Pennsylvania, a son of John and Barbara (Weaver) Leffler, also natives of Pennsylvania, of Dutch and English descent, respectively, who, in 1851, migrated from Pennsylvania to Jefferson county, Iowa, settling first at Fairfield, where they remained for four years, or until 1855, when they removed to Decatur county, Iowa, and made that their permanent home, spending the rest of their lives there.

George Leffler was married on March 25, 1877, to Josephine Wilson, of Decatur county, Iowa, who was born on February 10, 1860, in Mahaska county, Iowa, a daughter of Thomas and Mary (Richards) Wilson, natives of Ohio and early settlers in Mahaska county. In 1880 the Lefflers came to Audubon county and settled at old Hamlin, where they lived for a time, and

then moved to a farm in Leroy township. Mr. Leffler now resides in Audubon. He and his wife were the parents of but two children, Bird, the subject of this sketch, and Mrs. Barbara A. White, who lives in Melville township.

Bird Leffler was educated in the district schools of Audubon county, and has been farming for himself since 1901. He first rented a farm one and one-half miles west of his present farm, but in 1910 he moved to a farm one and one-half miles west, where he lived for a short time, after which he moved to his present farm. Mr. Leffler owns one hundred and twenty acres, and is farming two hundred and forty acres. He purchased forty acres in September, 1907, and eighty acres on February 3, 1911, both tracts located in section 31, of Melville township.

On February 24, 1904, Bird Leffler was married to Anna Sunberg, who was born on August 3, 1882, daughter of Henry Sunberg, whose biographical sketch, found elsewhere in this volume, gives the history of the Sunberg family, and to this union two children have been born, Dessa Fay, born on October 24, 1910, and Gladys May, May 12, 1905.

Mr. Leffler is a Republican, but he has never been active in politics, and has never held public office nor cared to do so. He has devoted his time and attention to his family and to the cultivation of his farm, and in this respect has contributed materially to the progress and prosperity of Audubon county. He is well worthy of representation in the annals of his county, and is held in high regard by all who know him.

THOMAS CAMPBELL.

The name of Thomas Campbell for many years has been an honored and respected one in this county, Mr. Campbell richly deserving the universal respect and esteem accorded him in the community where he lives. He is numbered among the enterprising farmers of Audubon county and is a man of sound judgment, discretion and thorough knowledge of his life's vocation. He is possessed of business ability of a high order and has managed his affairs with splendid success, being generally recognized as one of the leading citizens of Melville township, where he owns two hundred and forty acres of land in section 36.

Thomas Campbell was born on February 4, 1875, in Logan county, Illinois, the son of George Campbell, a native of Ireland, who came to Audu-

bon county in 1885, Thomas Campbell being then eleven years of age. He had attended the public schools of Logan county, Illinois, and after coming to Audubon county, attended the public schools of Melville township and in these places received his education. When twenty-three years old, Mr. Campbell began farming for himself, renting land from his father, and has farmed the lower farm of section 36 continuously since that time. In 1907 Mr. Campbell invested in eighty acres of land, a portion of his father's farm, at fifty dollars an acre, and has improved this farm by the erection of numerous buildings. Previously, in 1900, his father had given him eighty acres and in 1910 he bought eighty acres additional.

Mr. Campbell raises one hundred and twenty head of hogs annually, and is an extensive breeder of Shorthorn cattle, at the present time feeding more than thirty head of registered thoroughbred cattle. His corn, of which he raises about forty acres each year, produces upwards of sixty bushels to the acre. He, therefore, has each fall from twenty-four hundred to twenty-five hundred bushels of corn.

On February 4, 1893, Thomas Campbell was married to Nannie Glascock, who was born in Illinois, the daughter of Thomas Glascock, deceased. To this union four children have been born, George Thomas (deceased), Harry Arthur, Byron Francis and Laura Kathryn. The Campbells are held in high regard in their neighborhood and enjoy the cordial esteem of all who know them.

W. W. PERRINE.

The gentleman to a review of whose life the reader's attention is most respectfully directed at this point, is recognized as one of the energetic, well-known business men of Audubon county, who, by his enterprise and progressive methods, has contributed in a material way to the agricultural advancement of the locality where he lives. In the course of an honorable career he has been successful in several lines to which his efforts have been directed, and he enjoys a distinct prestige among the representative men of Iowa township. It is eminently proper, therefore, that attention be called to his achievements and due credit be accorded his worth as a citizen.

W. W. Perrine was born in Sagamon county, Illinois, on August 29, 1857, a son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Carroll) Perrine, both natives of Ohio. Both moved to Illinois when young and were married in that state, becoming substantial farmers and honored and respected citizens of their

community. Mrs. Perrine died in Illinois and Samuel Perrine spent his last days in this county. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, George W., Richard, W. W., Alice, Lincoln, Joseph and Grant, all of whom are living with the exception of Lincoln, Richard and Grant.

W. W. Perrine received his education in the common schools of Illinois, and after leaving school began farming in that state. He remained in Illinois until 1882, when he came to Audubon county, and in September of that year located in Lincoln township, where he purchasd eighty acres of land, upon which he lived for eighteen years. In 1900 Mr. Perrine sold his farm in Lincoln township and purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Viola township, where he is now living. He is engaged in general mixed farming, and is an extensive breeder of Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs, and has met with a very fair degree of success in his agricultural operations.

On March 1, 1883, W. W. Perrine was married to Elizabeth Thomas, daughter of Henry and Martha (Davis) Thomas, both of whom were natives of South Wales, where they were married. Mrs. Perrine was born in South Wales on December 4, 1860. Her parents came to America in 1863 and located in Pennsylvania, where they remained for four years, after which they removed to Illinois, and lived there for six years. They next removed to Carroll county, Iowa, and engaged in farming. Henry and Martha (Davis) Thomas were the parents of five children, Elizabeth, John, Anna, Henry and David, all of whom are still living with the exception of John. The father of these children is now deceased, while the mother is still living in Carroll county, Iowa. To W. W. and Elizabeth (Thomas) Perrine have been born five children: Elsie (deceased), Lottie, Leah, Lois and Lucille. Lottie is the widow of Bert Anderson. Leah is the wife of John Durbin, a farmer of Cottonwood county, Minnesota. Lois and Lucille are living at home with their parents.

Mr. Perrine is a Republican and has always taken an active interest in the public affairs of his township. He has served as township trustee of Lincoln township, and was secretary of the school board of his township for twelve years. He also served one term as justice of the peace and was constable for a time. Mr. Perrine is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America at Audubon. The Perrine family are all earnest and faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which they are regular attendants and active in the work of both the church and Sunday school. Mr. Perrine is a well-known and highly-respected citizen and deserves the confidence and esteem of his neighbors and fellow citizens.

F. W. RIDGLEY.

The gentleman whose name the reader is asked to note at this point in the biographical history of Audubon county, F. W. Ridgley, the well-known and popular trustee of Greeley township, is a native of England, who, as an infant, was brought to America by his parents in the latter part of 1871, the family passing through the city of Chicago during the time of the great fire which destroyed that city in October of that year.

F. W. Ridgley was born in Fen Stanton, Huntingtongshire, England, February 13, 1871, the son of Francis and Sarah A. (Johnson) Ridgley, natives of the same shire, the former of whom was an extensive landowner, though a miller by trade, carrying on his farming operations in connection with his milling.

In the fall of the year in which the subject of this sketch was born, Francis and Sarah Ridgley, with their infant son, their first-born child, came to America, reaching Chicago on their way west during the time that city was wrapped in flames. The family first settled on a prairie farm in western Illinois, and remained there but a year or two, at the end of which time they moved farther west, coming to Audubon county, this state, where the parents spent the rest of their lives, and where five other children were born to them.

Mr. Ridgley's first recollection is of his family moving onto the tract that is now comprised in the county farm, his father having rented land there. After a season or two spent there, the Ridgleys moved to a farm near Lickets Grove, in Melville township, and in 1878 and later, bought a farm of four hundred acres in sections 28 and 33, in Greeley township, two hundred and forty acres of which is included in the farm on which Trustee Ridgley now lives and on which his parents passed their last days. Receiving his education in the early schools of his home township, F. W. Ridgley herded cattle on the unfenced plains thereabout during his boyhood, and as he grew older helped his father on the farm and has been a farmer all his life. The elder Ridgley had been an active Democrat and his son followed in his footsteps, becoming one of the leaders of that party in his part of the county and served his township as trustee very acceptably for three terms, during which time he did much to promote the best interests of the township in both a material and educational way.

On June 12, 1901, in Audubon township, this county, F. W. Ridgley was united in marriage to Winifred Martin, who was born in that township on November 14, 1879, the daughter of James H. and Elizabeth (Goforth) Martin, natives, respectively of Virginia and Kentucky, who were married



F. W. RIDGLEY AND FAMILY

in Linn county, Iowa, coming to this county about 1866 and settling in Audubon township. The genealogy of the Martin family is set out on another page of this history.

To F. W. and Winifred (Martin) Ridgley have been born two children, Sarah Geraldine, born March 17, 1903, and Joy Rena, born July 29, 1905. Mr. and Mrs. Ridgley are members of the Congregational church and are active in all the good works of their neighborhood, being a very popular couple, admired and respected by all who have the pleasure of their acquaintance.

WILLIAM L. CLARK.

An enumeration of those men of the present generation in this county who have won honor and public recognition for themselves, and who, at the same time have won honor for the locality to which they belong, would be incomplete were there failure to make specific mention of William L. Clark, a prominent farmer of Greeley and Melville townships. The qualities which have made him one of the prominent and successful men of Audubon county have also brought to him the sincere esteem and confidence of the people of his community. He is the owner of the undivided northwest quarter of section 6, in Greeley township, besides an adjacent tract of land comprising forty acres in Melville township, making in all a fine farm of two hundred acres.

William L. Clark was born in Greensburg, Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, on February 3, 1865, a son of George W. and Mary A. (Horton) Clark, natives of Baltimore, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, respectively. George W. Clark was a carriage-maker until he reached the age of fifty years, when he engaged in farming. In October, 1865, he moved to Rock Island county, Illinois, and there purchased and cultivated a farm. In 1889 the family located on a farm in Greeley township, this county, which farm is now owned by William L. Clark. George W. Clark was born in 1823 and died in February, 1903. His wife was born in 1825 and died in May, 1913. They were the parents of nine children, five of whom are living, namely: James T., living in Texas county, Missouri; Mrs. Nettie Garnett, of Hamlin, Iowa; Mrs. Ada Genung, of Staples, Minnesota; Mrs. Grace Crompton, of Rock Island, Illinois, and William L., with whom this narrative deals.

On October 27, 1892, William L. Clark was married to Mattie White,

daughter of E. G. White, of Greeley township, and to this union have been born three children, Olive (deceased), Merle and Dale.

Mr. Clark is identified with the Republican party, but owing to his extensive agricultural interests, has taken little active part in political affairs, though always ready to support any measure which has for its object the welfare of the community and the advancement of the moral, educational or material life of his township. He and his family are earnest and faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church, to the support of which they are liberal contributors. William L. Clark is one of the substantial farmers of Audubon county, and is prominent in the civic life of both Melville and Greeley townships, a man whose counsel is sought in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the community as a whole.

HENRY SCHREIBER.

In the daily struggle for an honorable competence and a substantial career on the part of the farmer there is little to attract the casual reader in search of a sensational chapter, but to a mind thoroughly awake to the reality and meaning of human existence there are noble and imperishable lessons in the career of an individual who, without other means than a clear head, strong arm and true heart, directed and controlled by correct principles and unerring judgment, conquers adversity and finally wins, not only a pecuniary independence, but what is far greater and higher, the deserved respect and confidence of those with whom his active years have been spent. Such a man is Henry Schreiber, a well-known farmer of Melville township and the proprietor of six hundred and twelve acres of splendid farming land in that township, located in sections 2 and 3.

Henry Schreiber was born on July 12, 1838, in Columbiana county, Ohio, the son of Ignatius and Maria (Richard) Schreiber, natives of Switzerland and France, respectively, who died in Carroll county, Ohio. To them were born three children, Frederick, who lives in Carroll county; Henry, the subject of this sketch, and Mary, who was drowned at the age of ten years. Henry Schreiber set out from his home in Ohio in 1858, and traveled in several western states as well as in Virginia. Eventually, he settled in Will county, Illinois, and was married there in 1869. For many years he followed the trade of blacksmith there and in 1889 came to Audubon county, he having ten years before purchased four hundred and thirty-two acres in Melville

township, this county, at nine dollars an acre. In 1903 he added to his holdings by the purchase of one hundred and eighty acres at sixty-one dollars an acre. Mr. Schreiber has placed most of the present improvements on both farms, though some of the trees were planted by his brother-in-law, Anthony Ruddy, who lived on the place eight years previous to Mr. Schreiber's coming to this county.

On December 29, 1869, in Illinois, Henry Schreiber was married to Catherine Ruddy, and to this happy union six children have been born, namely: Annie, who lives in Chicago; Elizabeth, of Audubon; Henry, of Chicago; Catherine, of Chicago; Helen, who is the wife of Daniel Kerwin, and May, who is living at home.

Politically, Mr. Schreiber is independent, but he is more or less identified with the fortunes of the Democratic party, and most of the time supports the Democratic candidate and ticket. He and Mrs. Schreiber and all the members of their family are devout members of the Catholic church of Audubon, and are liberal contributors to the support of their faith. They have many friends throughout the county and are held in high regard by all.

WILLIAM M. CLARK.

It is a well-attested fact that the greatness of a community or state lies not in the machinery of government, nor even in its institutions, but rather in the sterling qualities of the individual citizen, in his capacity for high and unselfish effort and his devotion to the public welfare. In those particulars William M. Clark has conferred honor and dignity upon his locality, and as an elemental part of this history, it is fitting that there should be recorded a resume of his career, with the object of noting his connection with the advancement of one of the most flourishing sections of the great Hawkeye commonwealth.

William M. Clark was born in Grant county, Wisconsin, on November 16, 1871, a son of William J. and Serena J. (Thompson) Clark. The life history of William J. Clark is contained elsewhere in this volume, the biographical sketch of Mr. Clark presenting the history of the Clark family. Educated in the common schools of Audubon county, William M. Clark early in life took up farming in Viola township and continued farming operations in that township for two years, after which he removed to Missouri, and lived in that state for seven years. Mr. Clark prospered while living in

Missouri, but subsequently returned to Audubon county and purchased a farm in Viola township, where he is now living. He is also the owner of two hundred and forty acres of land in Pipe Stone county, Minnesota.

In 1895, William M. Clark was married to Lulu Graves, the daughter of Joseph and Jane (Spratt) Graves, and to this happy union three children have been born, Bertha, Raymond and Elnora, all of whom are living at home.

Mr. Clark is not a member of any lodge, and has held no political offices, but is identified with the Democratic party, and supports the principles and policies of that party. Although a comparatively young man, he has made rapid progress as a farmer, and all of his friends join in predicting for him a very bright future.

WILLIAM O. BAKER.

One of the influential citizens and farmers of Viola township, this county, and the owner of two hundred acres of land in that township, is William O. Baker, a man of excellent endowment and upright character, who has been a valuable factor in the agricultural and civic affairs of Viola township for many years. Since casting his lot with the people of Audubon county in 1874, Mr. Baker has benefited not only himself, but the community in general. His record shows him to be one of the prominent and successful farmers of Audubon county, and he is, in every respect, worthy of representation in this volume.

William O. Baker was born in England on February 19, 1848, the son of Robert and Eliza (Owen) Baker, who immigrated from England in 1850 and located near Davenport, Scott county, Iowa, where they lived for twenty years and were successful farmers. They came to Audubon county in 1870 and lived in Melville township for four years, after which they moved to Viola township. Robert Baker died on the farm there on June 18, 1905, his wife having preceded him to the grave but a bare month before, her death having occurred on May 13 of the same year, Robert Baker having been eighty-nine years old at the time of his death and his wife eighty-three. They were the parents of the following children: William, the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Mary Jane Huffmann (deceased), who lived in Viola township; Mrs. Annie Abel, of Omaha, Nebraska; John Thomas, of Spirit Lake; James K., who lives near Audubon; Mrs. Josephine Oliver, of Melville township, and Mrs. Nellie Smith, of Dodd City, Kansas.

William O. Baker lived with his parents until their death and cared for them, having previously purchased from them the farm which he now owns. He has, for many years, been an extensive breeder of Shorthorn and Hereford cattle, dividing his time between these two breeds and farming. Of late he has been buying and selling cattle, and handles hundreds of head annually. Mr. Baker owns altogether two hundred and eighty acres of land, one hundred and sixty acres of which is located in section 18 and one hundred and twenty acres in section 17, and has lived on this farm since the spring of 1874. He first came to Audubon county with his parents in 1870, at which time his nearest neighbor in Melville township was E. J. Fruman, who lived four miles away. Mr. Baker is one of the oldest settlers in Viola township. He purchased his land in 1879 at eighteen dollars an acre from F. E. Dennet and Carl Dennet, previously having rented land for five years. The highway near his farm is lined on both sides with great trees which he planted. The home is attractive and well built and the farm is well fenced.

Though Mr. Baker is a Democrat, he is somewhat independent in his voting, being inclined, for it is a question between measures and parties, to support men of high principles rather than political party emblems. He attends the Eaton Valley United Brethren church. Mr. Baker has never married.

FRED SUNBERG.

Among the enterprising and progressive men whose activity in agricultural circles, and private circles as well, has made Audubon county one of the thriving counties of the great Hawkeye state, and an important center in the commerce and industry of the state, is Fred Sunberg, a well-known farmer of Melville township, and the proprietor of eighty acres of land in section 33 of that township. Mr. Sunberg is a native of Germany, but has resided in this country practically all his life.

Fred Sunberg was born in Mecklinburg-Schwerin, Germany, on August 10, 1869, the son of Henry Sunberg, who came to America in the spring of 1871, first settling in Johnson county, Iowa, coming to Audubon county in the spring of 1887, and renting land in Melville township, later retiring to Audubon, where he now lives.

Fred Sunberg began doing farm work for himself in 1894, previous to his marriage in that year he having worked out by the month for neighboring farmers. On March 15, 1894, he was married to Minnie Tunman,

daughter of Charles Tunman, and to this union four children have been born, namely: May, who lives in Audubon with her grandparents; Carl, Mildred and Lowine, at home.

Mr. Sunberg is a Democrat, but his extensive agricultural interests have prevented his taking a very active part in public affairs. Fraternally, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen and the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and is active in the affairs of both lodges. Mr. Sunberg is well known in Melville township as one of the industrious, enterprising and progressive citizens of that favored locality. He is very keenly interested in the people of Melville township, and they are his very good friends.

WILLIAM J. CALLOW.

It is proper to judge the success of a man's life by the estimation in which he is held by his neighbors and fellow citizens. They see him at his work, in his family circle, in church, hear his views on public questions, observe his code of morals, witness how he conducts himself in all of the relations of society and civilization, and are, therefore, competent to judge his merits and demerits. After a long course of years, it would be out of the question for his neighbors not to know of his worth for, as has been said, "Actions speak louder than words." In this connection it is not too much to say that William J. Callow, a prominent farmer of Viola township, this county, who is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 29, and who has lived on that farm for nearly twelve years, has passed a life of unusual honor in the community where he has lived. He has been industrious and has the confidence of all who have had the pleasure of his friendship.

William J. Callow was born on February 24, 1861, in Iowa county, Wisconsin, the son of James and Ann (Skillicorn) Callow, both natives of the Isle of Man, the former of whom was born in 1824 and died in 1895, and the latter of whom was born in 1843. James Callow emigrated to this country in 1852 and was married in Wisconsin. His widow is now living in that state.

William J. Callow was reared on a farm and educated in Wisconsin, during which period he performed the usual work which falls to the lot of the country boy. He was married in Wisconsin in 1885, and three years later, in the spring of 1888, he moved to Furnas county, Nebraska, where he

remained for nine years. In 1897 he moved to Iowa and settled in Melville township, this county. The next year he moved to Viola township and in 1902 he purchased his present farm, moving to the same in the spring of 1903. Mr. Callow has improved the place with splendid buildings, excellent drains and good fences and now has a fertile and highly productive farm.

In December, 1885, William J. Callow was married to Susanna Matthews, a native of Norway, and to this union were born six children, namely: Stansmore James, who lives at home; Myrtle Anna, the wife of Wilbur Daniel Sampson, of Viola township; Lillie Maude, Beulah May and Harold Gordon, all of whom are at home and one who died in infancy, unnamed.

Mr. Callow for many years has been an ardent opponent of the saloons and is politically identified with the Prohibition party. He is bitterly opposed to the liquor traffic in any form and has given his best energy to the cause of state-wide and nation-wide prohibition. Mr. and Mrs. Callow are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the faith of which their children have been reared, and are liberal contributors to the support of this denomination. This is an excellent family and is held in high regard throughout that whole section of the county.

WILLIAM S. OWEN.

The gentleman whose name appears at the head of this biographical review needs no introduction to the people of Audubon county, since his entire life has been spent in this community. Though his life has been devoted to fostering his own interests primarily, he has not neglected to promote the welfare of his neighbors and friends as well. He is an honorable representative of one of the esteemed families of this section and a gentleman of high character and worthy ambition. He has filled no small place in the public life, and is a splendid type of the intelligent, up-to-date, self-made American. As a citizen he is progressive, abreast of the times in all that concerns the common weal and has the unqualified respect and confidence of everyone.

William S. Owen was born in this county on September 14, 1870, the son of William and Mary (Clifton) Owen, both of whom were natives of England. They were married in England and soon afterward came to the United States, settling in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1865, later coming to this county, filling no small part in the early life of the people of this part of the state.

William S. Owen received his education in the common schools of

Audubon county, and after leaving school took up farming in Leroy township, continuing to live there until 1909, when he purchased two hundred and sixty acres of land in Viola township, where he is now living, engaged in general farming and stock breeding. Mr. Owen has a fertile farm and has been very successful in its operation.

On March 25, 1897, William S. Owen was married to Minnie Sunberg, the daughter of Henry Sunberg, an account of whose life is presented elsewhere in this volume, and in whose biographical sketch is found the history of Mr. Sunberg's family. To this union four children have been born, Henry, Grace and Helen, all of whom are living at home with their parents, and Clarence, who died at the age of three years.

William S. Owen is a Republican and has served as township trustee for two years, besides having been for many years a school director in his home township. He has been active in educational affairs in Viola township and is keenly interested in the educational progress of Audubon county. Mr. and Mrs. Owen and family are earnest and loyal members of the Presbyterian church. Aside from the educational interests to which he is devoted, Mr. Owen devotes all his time to his family and to his farm. He is a man of domestic temperament and has set a worthy example to the young men of Audubon county.

EDWARD B. BAKER.

In placing the subject of this sketch in the front ranks of Audubon county's farmers and business men, simple justice is done to Edward B. Baker, a man of excellent judgment, sound discretion, thorough technical knowledge and business ability of a high order. Mr. Baker manages his affairs with splendid success and has so impressed his individuality upon the community in which he lives as to gain recognition among the leading citizens and public-spirited men of affairs. He is the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of land in section 9, of Viola township. Edward B. Baker was born on April 1, 1886, a native of the township where he lives, and was born on the Baker homestead east of Viola Center, the son of John T. Baker, who was born in 1856 in Davenport, Iowa. John T. Baker, son of Robert Baker, one of the earliest settlers in Audubon county, came to this county with his parents and married Minnie Booton. After his marriage he settled on a farm east of Viola Center. He moved to Spirit Lake in the spring of 1907 and lived there for two years. In 1909 Edward B. Baker, who also

lived at Spirit Lake, returned to Audubon county and purchased his present farm, and is now accounted one of the successful young farmers of this section of the state.

On March 17, 1909, Edward B. Baker was married to Mazel Yager, daughter of C. A. Yager, of Coon Rapids, and to this union two children have been born, Geneva and Daryl.

Mr. Baker is a Democrat and an active member of the Yeomen of America.

JERRY S. HOOVER.

Jerry S. Hoover, a farmer of Greeley township, and a resident of this county for nearly thirty years, was born on August 18, 1865, in Racine county, Wisconsin, the son of Jerry M. and Fannie (Foreman) Hoover, natives of Pennsylvania, and of England, respectively. The mother came to the United States when a child, her parents having emigrated to America at that time. Jerry M. and Fannie (Foreman) Hoover were the parents of eleven children, of whom Jerry S., the subject of this sketch, was the fifth and the only one who has ever lived in Audubon county.

After living at home until he was twenty-three years old, Mr. Hoover came to Audubon county in 1888 and rented land for five years. He then purchased eighty acres of land in section 33, of Greeley township, and began his career as a farmer, a career in which he has been very successful. The eighty-acre farm was very slightly improved when Mr. Hoover purchased it, having only a small two-room house and a hay-shed barn. He has since built an addition to the house and now has a nine-room house, a good barn, cribs, granaries, garage and well-kept out-buildings. He is engaged in general farming and stock raising and milks on an average thirteen head of cows. He has added forty acres to his original holdings and also rents from forty to eighty acres additional.

On February 29, 1888, Jerry S. Hoover was married to Katherine Bauer, of Audubon, who was born on July 22, 1869, in Baden, Germany, the daughter of Christian and Susan (Frankenberger) Bauer. The mother died in the old country, when Katherine was eight years old, and her father again married. She came to the United States with her father and step-mother, and after landing in New York, in March, 1884, they went to Racine county, Wisconsin, where they lived for three years, and then came to Audubon county.

To Jerry S. and Katherine (Bauer) Hoover have been born eight children, as follow: Alice, born on May 4, 1889, married F. A. Bartelt, and has one child, George; Elizabeth, November 20, 1890, married Earl Griffin, and has four children, Edith and Elsie (twins), Myrtle and Arnold; Emma, May 13, 1892; Chris, August 26, 1894; Fannie, April 11, 1897; Nora, December 18, 1899; George, September 16, 1903, and Ellowene, April 25, 1907. All of the unmarried children live at home with their parents, except Emma, who stays with her sister, Elizabeth, near Anita.

For many years Mr. Hoover has been a prominent Republican in Greeley township, having served as justice of the peace for three terms and as a school director for eight years. The Hoover family are members of the Christian church, and Mrs. Hoover especially has been an active church worker for many years. The family is well known in this part of the country. Fraternally, Mr. Hoover is a member of the Ancient Order of the United Workmen.

Jerry S. Hoover is a man of wide intelligence, a skillful and scientific farmer, who has followed closely the modern development in farming, and who has used only the most improved processes in farm operations. He believes in good machinery and his place is well equipped with most of the modern farm inventions. Not only is Mr. Hoover well known but he is popular in Greeley township and is held in high esteem by all who know him.

SOREN R. NELSON.

Left an orphan at the age of fifteen years, his mother having died when he was fourteen, and his father having died a year later, Soren R. Nelson came to this county, on money borrowed from relatives, with his sister and three brothers. After the estate of his parents had been settled, and he had received the two hundred and fifty dollars which he had pledged to his relatives in repayment for an advance made to pay the passage of himself and his sister and three brothers to America, the bank in which the money was deposited failed and most of the money was lost. Undaunted by this early misfortune, Soren R. Nelson applied himself diligently to make the most of his opportunities in the new world. As a consequence he is today regarded as one of the substantial and influential business men of Exira, this county, where he owns a garage and where he is extensively engaged in dealing in automobiles and implements.

Soren R. Nelson's parents, Rasmus and Catherine (Sorenson) Nelson were farmers in their native land, the little kingdom of Denmark, but when Soren R. was a year old they moved to Germany and there the elder Nelson farmed until his death in 1892. His wife died one year previously, in 1891. They left a family of five children, of whom Soren is the eldest, the others being Agnes, Nels, Robert and Hans. Agnes is living in Colfax, Iowa; Nels and Robert are in the implement business at Brayton, Iowa, and Hans is deceased.

Soren R. Nelson was born in Denmark on October 24, 1876. Following his father's death, his mother having passed away the year before, he persuaded his relatives to loan the five children enough money to come to America. He promised to pay them when their parents' estate was settled. Arrangements were made and thus the five orphans came to America and located in Audubon county with an aunt. When the estate was settled the modest sum of two hundred and fifty dollars was left, and out of that it was necessary to repay the money they had borrowed from relatives. The money was sent to this country and was placed in a bank at Chicago, Illinois. While the money was on deposit the bank failed, and Soren R. and his brothers and their sister lost almost all of the two hundred and fifty dollars. This was their first financial experience in America. Fortunately, Soren R. Nelson had received an excellent elementary education in Germany and after leaving school he taught for a short time.

Upon arriving in this country the five Nelson children located first near Brayton, this county, where the boys worked as farm hands. Soren R. Nelson was thus engaged for three years, after which he was engaged to teach school in this county and was thus employed for twelve years, after which he engaged in the hardware and implement business at Brayton. He remained at Brayton for four years, and then engaged in the implement and automobile business at Atlantic, and is proprietor of the Cass County Implement Company, which was incorporated for five thousand dollars in 1912. In the year 1911 he purchased a half interest with H. A. Nelson & Company, implement dealers, of Exira, which interest he later sold and in February, 1913, started in the garage and automobile business. Mr. Nelson has the agency for the Ford automobile in this county and also handles a complete line of implements.

On November 24, 1898, Soren R. Nelson was married to Ida Nelson, daughter of L. P. and Marie Nelson, to which happy union four children have been born, Violet, Ralph, Perle and Marie. Mrs. Soren R. Nelson was born in Cass county, Iowa, her parents being natives of Germany and

Denmark, respectively. Upon his arrival in America, L. P. Nelson located in Des Moines, Iowa, and there was married. For a time he worked in a brickyard. In 1878 he removed to Elkhorn, Iowa, where he took up farming. Subsequently he moved to a farm three and one-half miles west of Exira, in this county, where he is now living. He and his wife are the parents of nine children, Anna, Rosa, Hans, Ida, Martha, Mary, Ray, Arthur and Albert, all of whom are living in this county.

Mr. and Mrs. Soren R. Nelson are members of the Danish Lutheran church. Mr. Nelson is a member of and active in the fraternal affairs of the Modern Woodmen of America, and of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Atlantic. He served for seven years as assessor of Oakland township, and was mayor of Brayton for two years. Politically, he is identified with the Republican party. He is recognized as an enterprising and energetic citizen and is held in the highest regard by all who know him.

JENS LARSEN.

Among the highly-respected citizens and retired farmers of this county, is Jens Larsen, who formerly owned a splendid farm of a hundred and twenty-one acres in Sharon township, which he sold in 1912 for one hundred and fifty-five dollars an acre. After selling this farm he retired and is now living in Kimballton, this county, in a splendid modern home which he has lately built.

Jens Larsen was born in Denmark on June 9, 1849, the son of Lars and Kirsten Jensen, both natives of Denmark, who came to America in 1882, and spent their last days in the home of one of their sons in Sharon township, this county. They were members of the Danish Lutheran church and reared a family of nine children, whose names follow in the order of their birth: Hans, a retired farmer of Kimballton; Jens and Maria (twins), the next born, of whom the former is the subject of this sketch, and the latter is the wife of Peter Rassmussen, of Elk Horn; Kirsten, who died in Chicago; Chris, who lives in Sharon township; Stena, deceased; Louisa, who married Hans Larsen, of Sharon township; Anders, a farmer in Sharon township, and Anemaria, who married Anton Peterson, of Elk Horn.

After attending the common schools of his native land, Jens Larsen began to make his own living at the age of eleven by herding cattle. Later he worked as a farm hand and in 1872, at the age of twenty-three, he came

to America. For several years he worked at various places. In Wisconsin, Canada, Mississippi and Louisiana he was employed in railroad work, and for five years was located in Chicago, Illinois, where he had charge of the horses for the street car company at the Cottage Grove avenue barns. In 1880 he came to Audubon county and located in Sharon township, where he purchased eighty acres of land to which he later added an adjoining tract of forty acres. It was this farm that Mr. Larsen sold in 1912 for one hundred and fifty-five dollars an acre.

In 1876, in Chicago, Jens Larsen was married to Hannah Rassmussen, a native of Denmark. Eleven years after their marriage she died, and Mr. Larsen married, secondly, Carenstena Hansen, also a native of Denmark. To this union no children have been born.

Mr. Larsen is a Democrat, but has never aspired to office. He and Mrs. Larsen are members of the Danish Lutheran church at Kimballton, and both take a lively interest in the church work, being held in high esteem by their neighbors. Having started in life as a poor boy, with no financial assistance and without help of any kind, Mr. Larsen has worked hard to achieve a competence and has supplemented personal labor by careful and wise management of his business. He is a fine man to meet; is well known and enjoys the confidence of a host of friends in Audubon county.

GEORGE AGNEW.

George Agnew, a veteran of the Civil War, formerly a successful farmer of this county and well known in this section, is now living retired at Audubon. Mr. Agnew was born in Erie county, Pennsylvania, on January 1, 1839, son of Samuel and Anna (McKinley) Agnew, both natives of County Antrim, Ireland, both of whom passed away more than a half century ago. The former was born in 1784 and died in 1860, and the latter was born in 1799 and died in 1844.

Samuel Agnew was a shoemaker by trade, who learned the trade in the land of his birth, and who after coming to America and farming for a short time, resumed the shoe business and was engaged in the making of custom shoes in Erie county, Pennsylvania, for many years. In 1857, he sold the farm which he had previously owned, together with his shoe business and moved to Johnson county, Iowa, where he spent the rest of his life.

George Agnew began farming in the spring of 1861, and in September

of that year enrolled his name among those from Johnson county who were offering their services to their country in behalf of the preservation of the Union. The recruits thus enrolled failed to fill a company and Mr. Agnew enlisted under Captain Castle, whose company went into quarters at Mt. Pleasant, where they organized, Mr. Agnew being elected sergeant. This squad then was ordered back to Iowa, with a view to having the company filled. This design failing, the recruits were given the privilege either to join other companies or to go home. Some of the men went home, but Mr. Agnew and thirteen others made a proposition to Company C, Fourth Iowa Cavalry, that if one of the squad should be given the position of orderly sergeant they would attach themselves to Company C. This proffer was accepted and Mr. Agnew thus began his military service as a member of Company C, Fourth Iowa Cavalry. He served first under Captain Miller, then under Captain Porter, following which he saw service under Captain Morrison and Captain Beckworth, but was attached to the same general command until the close of the war. He was engaged in the battle of Vicksburg, and in fact all of the Vicksburg campaign; in Wilson's raid, and in the campaign around Atlanta, Georgia, as well as in numerous important expeditions. He was mustered out of service in August, 1865, and resumed the vocation of farming on his return home. In partnership with his brother, William J. Agnew, he rented a farm for two years, and then moved to Pawnee county, Nebraska, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, and engaged in general farming for seven years. The Nebraska farm comprised virgin soil and Mr. Agnew "broke" the land for the third time. In 1874 he returned to Johnson county, Iowa, and rented land there for seven years, after which he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres ten miles south of Iowa City, and remained there until 1891, when he came to Audubon county and purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in LeRoy township. During the active period of his career in this county Mr. Agnew was engaged in general farming, and during that time he invested upwards of four thousand dollars in improvements upon his LeRoy township farm. He was accustomed to feed out one hundred head of hogs every year, and also raised a great many cattle. In 1909 Mr. Agnew sold the farm and removed to Audubon where he has since lived in comfortable retirement.

In 1867 George Agnew was married to Mary E. Marshall, daughter of Josiah and Mary Marshall. Of the six children born to this union only four are now living. The deceased children are Esther and Catherine. Those living are Charles, Elmer, Mary E. and Carrie. Charles is unmarried.

Elmer married Lucinda Frederickson and they have two children, Dorothy and Mary. Mary is unmarried and Carrie married George Kirby, to which union two children have been born, Helen and Russell.

Mr. and Mrs. Agnew are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are interested in all good works. For many years Mr. Agnew has been a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and several times has served as commander of the local post. In politics he is, and has been for many years, identified with the Republican party.

George Agnew is a worthy citizen of this great county, and is honored and respected by his fellow townsmen. Having worked hard during the time he was able to work, he has the satisfaction now of enjoying the competence which he has accumulated for his declining years. He well deserves the confidence placed in him by his fellow citizens and the esteem bestowed upon him by his fellow townsmen.

JOHN FELTNER.

John Feltner, formerly a well-known farmer of Audubon county, now living retired at Audubon, was born on July 24, 1846, in Buffalo, New York, of German parentage, and after living there for twenty-four years, where he worked as a laborer, he moved to Wisconsin, where he worked on a farm for six years. He then moved to Booneville, Iowa, and worked in a saw-mill for a short time, after which he farmed in that county for eight years. At the end of that period he came to this county and farmed here until 1915, when he retired and moved to Audubon, the county seat, where he is now living. Mr. Feltner never owned land in this county, but he was a large stock raiser and farmer and directed the operations on as high as five hundred acres of land in Audubon county.

John Feltner was married in 1873 to Mary Hunt, daughter of Jonathan and Mary (Fletcher) Hunt, both of whom were natives of Lincolnshire, England, and who, after their marriage in their native land, came to the United States, locating temporarily in New York, where they remained only one year. They then came west to Grant county, Wisconsin, where they remained for six years, after which they moved to Lafayette county, Wisconsin, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Both died of typhoid fever just one month apart, the father passing away on August 26, 1862, and the mother on September 26, 1862. Jonathan Hunt was a farmer

during his entire life, and was the father of seven children, James, Mary, Robert, John, William, Albert and George, the latter of whom is deceased.

To John and Mary (Hunt) Feltner twelve children have been born, nine of whom are living, as follow: Frank, Abe, Elizabeth, Stella, Laura, Bob, John, James and William.

Though a Republican in politics, Mr. Feltner never has taken an especially active part in political matters in the community where he lives. Nevertheless he always has been vitally interested in matters affecting the public welfare, and has always been rated as a good citizen, upright in his dealings with his neighbors; a man of charitable and kindly impulses, who has left the impression of his individuality upon the agricultural life of this county, it being but fair to say that his acquaintance and friends are the better for having associated with him.

HANS P. HANSEN.

Few residents of Exira, Audubon county, Iowa, are so well and favorably known as the enterprising business man and representative citizen whose life story is here briefly told. None stands higher than he in the esteem and confidence of the community in which he resides and for the material advancement of which he has devoted so much of his time and influence. Hans P. Hansen is the proprietor of a large garage in Exira and enjoys a large business which he has built up himself—a business to which he is justly entitled, because of his correct methods of dealing with the public. He has been honored in a political way by the people of his township and has worthily discharged every trust and responsibility imposed upon him.

Hans P. Hansen was born on August 3, 1871, in Denmark. He is the son of Andrew and Catherine (Peterson) Hansen, both natives of Denmark. Andrew Hansen was a gardener in Denmark and followed that business up to the time of his death in 1912. His wife, the mother of Hans P. Hansen, is still living in Denmark, and was the mother of four children: Hans P., the subject of this sketch; Mary, Rasmus and Jacob. Hans P. Hansen is the only member of the family who came to America.

Mr. Hansen attended school in Denmark and after leaving school, took up the blacksmith's trade. He followed that trade in Denmark and also in this country. In 1892 he came to America and located at Omaha, Nebraska, where he remained for a short time. Two years later, in 1894, he came to



HANS P. HANSEN

Audubon county and located at Exira, working in a blacksmith shop for some time, but in 1895, he purchased a shop of his own and operated it until 1907, a period of twelve years. In 1907, Mr. Hansen sold out the blacksmith shop and engaged in the implement business, and had been engaged in this business for five years, when he took up the automobile trade and he now devotes all of his time to the garage. At the present time, Mr. Hansen has the agency for the Studebaker car and also the Abbott-Detroit car. He has sold a great many of these motor cars to the people of Exira and the people of the surrounding country and today is well-known as a prosperous business man.

Hans P. Hansen was married on September 21, 1896, to Mary Estella Herrick, the daughter of Oben Herrick. Five children have been born to this marriage: Georgia, Eva, Charles, Helen and Lillian. All of these children are living at home. Mrs. Hansen was born in Exira, her parents being early settlers in Audubon county. Her father was very prominent and was first justice of the peace in Audubon county.

Mr. and Mrs. Hansen are members of the Danish Lutheran church. Fraternally, Mr. Hansen is a member of the Masonic order, the Knights of Pythias and the Danish Brotherhood. In politics, he is identified with the Democratic party and at present is serving as the efficient and capable township trustee.

CONRAD MILLER.

Holding high prestige among the successful farmers of his generation in this county, Conrad Miller had much to do in advancing the material interests of Viola township. He had much to do with making it one of the commercial and agricultural centers of the state. The study of such a life cannot fail to interest those young men of the present generation whose careers are yet in the process of formation. He was singularly a representative farmer and contributed in no small measure to the prosperity of Viola township, which was his home and the field of his endeavors for so many years. During his life he established a lasting reputation for honor and integrity and his memory is revered today not only by his family but by all the people who knew him.

The late Conrad Miller was born in Germany on September 7, 1865, the son of Henry Miller, and died at his home in this county on September 1, 1914. He came to this country at the age of fifteen and settled in Illinois,

where he remained for eight years. He then came to Audubon county and settled near Hamlin, where he remained for four years. Later he located in Douglas township and remained there for four years, after which he moved to Leroy township, where he lived for four years, at the end of which time he finally settled in Viola township, where he spent the rest of his life, owning at the time of his death two hundred and forty acres of land in that township.

On March 14, 1889, Conrad Miller was married to Bertha Dittman, who was born in Iowa on April 25, 1875, daughter of William and Minnie (Crockom) Dittman, both natives of Germany, where they were married. In 1873 William Dittman and wife came to America and settled in Atlantic, Iowa, where he began working on the railroad as a section hand. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, William, Henry (deceased), August (deceased), Albert, Herman (deceased), Augusta, Bertha, Lena, Anna and Lottie. William Dittman is still living and is now making his home with his daughter, Mrs. Miller.

To Conrad and Bertha (Dittman) Miller were born ten children, William, Henry, Lenny, Harvey, Mabel, Walter, Marie, Bertha, Leone and one who died in infancy.

Politically, Mr. Miller was identified with the Democratic party. He was a member of the Lutheran church. Fraternally, he was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and also of the Yeomen of America. The late Conrad Miller is remembered as a useful citizen, one who gave his strength and energy and the best years of his life toward building up a happy and prosperous life in the neighborhood in which he lived.

WILLIAM C. YAGER.

There could be no more comprehensive history written of a city or county, or even of a state and its people, than that which deals with the life work of those who, by their own endeavors and indomitable energies, have placed themselves in positions entitling them to be called progressive citizens. In this sketch will be found the record of one who has outstripped those less active and less able on the highway of life; one who has not been subdued by the many obstacles and failures which come to everyone, but who has made them stepping stones to higher things, and one who at the same time that he was winning his way in the material affairs of life gained a reputation for uprightness and honor.

William C. Yager was born on April 4, 1848, in Highland county, Ohio, the son of Albert T. and Sina (Tyler) Yager, both natives of Virginia, who moved to Ohio during their youth with their respective parents and there were married. Subsequently, they moved to Iowa, settling in Jefferson county in 1848. They were the parents of nine children, of whom William C., the subject of this sketch, was the eldest. The other children were Joseph E., John M. (deceased), May M., Sarah F., Ella F., James Franklin and Clayborne. Albert T. Yager was a coach-maker by trade early in life, and in later years studied medicine and became a practicing physician. He came to Audubon county in 1876 and practiced medicine here until his death. His son, William C. Yager, the subject of this sketch, is now the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of fine land in Viola township, where he makes his home.

In September, 1872, William C. Yager was married to Margarette Booton, who was born on January 14, 1852, the daughter of Vamzyl G. and Catherine (Brant) Booton, the former of whom was born in Gallia county, Ohio, October 28, 1828, and the latter of whom was born on September 18, 1828. Vamzyl G. Booton moved from Ohio, where he remained for six years working as a day laborer. In 1861 he moved to Jefferson county, Iowa, and in that same year enlisted in Company D, Nineteenth Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, for service in the Civil War. He served three years, being mustered out at Davenport, Iowa, in July, 1865. He returned to Jefferson county, Iowa, and lived there for four years, at the end of which time he moved to Jasper county, Iowa, where he lived four years. He then, in 1876, came to Audubon county and located in Viola township, where he was engaged as a farmer and carpenter until he retired and moved to Coon Rapids, where he lived for twenty years, after which he returned to this county and is now making his home with William C. Yager and wife. Vamzyl G. and Catherine (Brant) Booton were the parents of eight children, Margarette, Ella, Dora (deceased), Minnie, Charles, Frank (deceased), William and Albertus.

To William C. and Margarette (Booton) Yager there has been born one child, a son, Fred M., who married Ella Campbell. They live in Viola township and have four children, Gretta, Gifford C., Winifred C. and Erma.

Mr. Yager served one term as township trustee of Viola township and has also served as road supervisor. He is not a member of any lodge and has never been identified with any fraternal organization. He and his family are members of the Methodist church and liberal contributors to its support. Mr. Yager is an ardent Democrat, though he has never held any important political office, and has never been a candidate for office.

PLENNY ANDREW HOLLENBECK.

Plenny Andrew Hollenbeck, now a well-known farmer and a progressive, broad-minded citizen of Melville township, this county, was born in Linn county, Iowa, on November 27, 1859, one of the eight children of Andrew J. and Susanna (Yates) Hollenbeck. Andrew J. Hollenbeck was a native of Indiana and his wife of Maine. He was a young man when he came to Iowa and located at Cedar Rapids, then a very small town, and there he operated a cooper shop. Subsequently, he engaged in the mercantile business at Cedar Rapids, and after being engaged in that business for a number of years, moved to Paoli, Iowa, where he engaged in farming. After remaining at Paoli for some time, he moved to Dallas county, Iowa, and farmed there until his removal to Audubon county, where he homesteaded one hundred and twenty acres of land. He broke the sod and put many improvements upon the farm, where he lived until 1880, in which year he moved to Kansas, locating near Scanda, where he spent the rest of his life.

Plenny A. Hollenbeck received his education in the schools of Dallas county, Iowa, and after leaving school, took up farming with his father. He was associated with his father during a period of nine years and at the end of that time rented a farm and farmed it for a period of four years. In the meantime, Mr. Hollenbeck had saved considerable money from his labors and was able to buy the place upon which he now lives. His first purchase, however, consisted of only eighty acres, for which he paid twenty-two dollars and fifty cents an acre, but he has enlarged his original holdings, from time to time, until now he owns two hundred and forty acres, on which he raises eighty acres of corn each year and feeds about eighty-five head of hogs.

In 1880, Plenny A. Hollenbeck was married to Ella Wilgus, the daughter of John and Deborah (McFadden) Wilgus, to which union eight children have been born, Irene, Edna, Mary, Carlos, Earl, Elsie, Bessie and Joe. Irene married John Griffith and has two children, Myron and Louis. Edna, now deceased, married William Griffith and left three children, Harold, Donald and Grace. Mary married William Martins and has three children, Mabel, Merrill and Elsie Mae. Carlos married Flay Searls. The remainder of the children are unmarried.

Mrs. Hollenbeck's father, John Wilgus, was a shoemaker by trade. His wife was the daughter of Joseph and Mary (Jamison) McFadden, and to their union were born but two children, Ella and Adeline. Mrs. Hollenbeck's mother having died in 1867, she was reared by her Grandfather McFadden.

Mrs. Hollenbeck's father died in 1913. Her grandparents, Joseph and Mary McFadden, were natives of Ohio and Pennsylvania, respectively. They were married in the Keystone state, where he was a blacksmith by trade. Later they settled in Illinois, where the grandfather took up farming and where he lived for six years, or until 1872. In January, of that year, he located in Leroy township, this county, where he purchased forty acres of land and farmed until his death, in 1886. His wife, the grandmother of Mrs. Hollenbeck, died in 1889. They were the parents of fourteen children, all of whom are now deceased.

Mr. Hollenbeck has served a term as township trustee of Melville township and is identified with the Republican party. Mr. Hollenbeck is a man of strong convictions and no man in Audubon county has warmer friends than he. Being a man of strong convictions, he is possessed of natural powers of leadership and is recognized as one of the leading farmers of the county. He gives liberally, though wisely, to the support of all worthy public movements and enterprises. Mr. Hollenbeck has worked hard for the snug fortune of which he is possessed and well merits the respect of his neighbors.

JOHN BUTTERTON.

John Butterson, now and for many years a well-known farmer in Leroy township, this county, was born at Puckville, Canada, on March 20, 1872, the son of Fred and Emma (Lee) Butterson, both natives of England. Fred Butterson spent six years in the English army, and four years as a sailor on a merchant ship, besides working for some time in London before emigrating to Canada. In Canada he worked as a farm hand for about nine years, and in 1879 came to Audubon county, locating in Leroy township, where he purchased forty acres, to which he later added an adjacent tract of eighty acres, and engaged in general farming until 1901, in which year he moved to Oklahoma, where he purchased a farm, on which he lived until he retired to Briton, Oklahoma. Of the eleven children born to Fred and Emma (Lee) Butterson, only seven are now living, and only two, John and Mat, are living in Audubon county.

John Butterson received his education in Audubon county and after leaving school worked out as a farm hand for seven years, and rented land for another seven. In 1901 he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Leroy township, later increasing this farm, by additional pur-

chases, to one hundred and sixty acres. In 1906 Mr. Butterson moved to Audubon and engaged in the hardware business for four years, or until 1910, when he returned to the farm and remained three years, at the end of which time he returned to Audubon and since that time has been living retired in that city. He still owns the farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Leroy township and devotes considerable time to looking after the operation of the same.

On August 30, 1893, John Butterson was married to Millicent Sheets, daughter of W. C. and Eliza Sheets of this county, which union has been without issue. Mr. and Mrs. Butterson are life-long members of the Evangelical church and Mr. Butterson has been superintendent of the Sunday school of that church for more than twenty years. He is also a trustee of the church and he and his wife are devoted to all good works. In politics Mr. Butterson is identified with the Republican party.

In a material way Mr. Butterson's life has been a conspicuous success, but more than this, his career has been honorable and upright and he is popular among his fellow townsmen in Audubon, as he was popular among his neighbors in Leroy township. He is a good citizen of this great county and has well earned the respite from the arduous labor of his earlier years.

NELS J. ANDERSEN.

Nels J. Andersen, now a prominent citizen and a successful farmer of Sharon township, this county, the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of fine farming land in that township, was born on July 14, 1852, in Denmark, the son of Anders and Anna (Larson) Nelson, the former of whom was a laborer all his life, and passed away in his native land in 1890. He had served valiantly in the Danish War of 1848, and had lived to rear a family of nine children, five of whom still survive, namely: Rasmus, Dorothy, Mary, Lena and Nels J.

Nels J. Andersen received his education in the schools of Denmark, and after leaving school worked out as a hired hand. He also served in the Danish army and when he was twenty-nine years old, and after his term of military service had expired, came to America and settled at Elkhorn, Iowa, where he worked out by the month for farmers in the vicinity of Elkhorn for four years, after which he rented the farm upon which he now lives in Sharon township, this county. After a short time he bought

the farm at nineteen dollars and fifty cents an acre. Since Mr. Andersen obtained possession of the farm he has invested in the neighborhood of seven thousand dollars in improvements on the place. He is accustomed to raise about fifty acres of corn every year, and he feeds about sixteen head of hogs annually. While the number of cattle he keeps on the place varies from month to month, he has on the average of perhaps forty head the year round.

Nels J. Andersen was first married to Anna Nielson, daughter of Niels Bollsen, but there were no children by this marriage. After her death Mr. Andersen married, secondly, in 1890, Christiana Chistensen, daughter of Chris and Anna (Larson) Larson. The three children born to this union—Christena, Sophia and Andrew—are all unmarried and live at home with their father and mother, Andrew assisting his father in the farm work, and the daughters ably assisting their mother in the hospitalities of the home. Mr. and Mrs. Andersen are prominent members of the Danish Lutheran church and their children have been reared in that faith. Mr. Andersen is a liberal contributor to the support of the church, of which he a trustee.

Mr. Andersen is a Republican, but he has never held office or cared to do so. Nevertheless he is man who takes a keen and active interest in questions involving the public welfare and his influence is always to be found on the right side of public questions. He has proved to be a good citizen in his adopted country and today is a patriotic, liberty-loving and sincere American citizen. He has been honorable and upright in his dealings with his neighbors and is honored and respected by them.

JACOB F. MILLER.

Jacob F. Miller one of the most extensive farmers in Viola township, this county, has lived in Audubon county for thirty-five years, or ever since he was twenty years old. Since coming to Iowa, he has applied himself industriously to farming and, as a consequence of his years of struggle and good management, he has accumulated a snug fortune which is invested in Audubon county real estate. The Miller family is one of the best known families in that section of Audubon county. Of German descent, Jacob F. Miller seems to have inherited all of the worthy traits of his German ancestors.

Jacob F. Miller was born on November 11, 1860, at Moline, Illinois,

the son of George H. and Margaret (Aster) Miller, both of whom were natives of Germany and the former of whom was only twelve years old when he came to America. The Miller family may be said, therefore, to be thoroughly domiciled in this country. George H. Miller came to America with his parents and located at Moline, Illinois, and there the Miller family was established for many years. George H. Miller was one of the first men who hauled logs to John Deere, out of which to make beams and handles for the John Deere plows which have become so well known throughout the country. He farmed five miles east of Moline until his death, at which time he had accumulated about two hundred and forty acres of land. Of the ten children born to George H. and Margaret (Aster) Miller, only seven are now living, but Jacob F. and John, who reside in Dickinson county, are the only ones living in the state of Iowa. The other children are George W., William, Mrs. Cornelia Duncan, Mrs. Elizabeth Odenhall and Henry.

After receiving a good education in the public schools of Illinois, Jacob F. Miller took up farming and was engaged in that occupation with his father until he was about nineteen years old, at which time he began hauling coal for the Moline Plow Company and his earnings from this work assisted him in paying for the farm machinery which he purchased after coming to Audubon county in 1880. Mr. Miller located in Viola township, on eighty acres of land which his father had given him, and it is there that he now lives, but since that time he has increased his holdings in farm properties to six hundred acres. He broke the sod for the first time on the original eighty acres and has one of the most modern homes as well as one of the best-kept farms in Audubon county. The dwelling is strictly modern in every respect. Mr. Miller has invested upwards of seventy-five hundred dollars in various kinds of improvements and annually feeds about ten carloads of cattle and three carloads of hogs. He annually raises seventy acres of corn and thirty acres of small grain on the home farm, which comprises a fine tract of two hundred and forty acres.

In 1887 Jacob F. Miller was married to Sallie E. Smith, the daughter of Richard and Christena (Heald) Smith, to which union eight children have been born, Roscoe, Vida, Hazel, Dalton, Versa Margaret, Jakey, Barbetha and Caldonia. Vida married Edgar Carpenter and has one child, Raymond. Mr. Miller's daughters are all accomplished young women, all of them having received an excellent education and are well known and popular throughout Audubon county. Their mother having died on September 24, 1903, Mr. Miller's daughters have had charge of the household since her death and all

are extremely skillful and efficient in household management. Mrs. Miller was born in Poweshiek county, Iowa, on June 23, 1867. Her parents came from Ohio and settled in Poweshiek county, this state, where they reared a family of ten children, six of whom are now living. Richard Smith now lives in Indianola. His wife has been dead for some years.

Mr. Miller and his sons and daughters are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. For years Mr. Miller has been prominent in the local congregation of that church and has served as trustee and as steward. Politically, he is identified with the Republican party.

Jacob F. Miller deserves to rank among the most high-minded and honorable citizens of Audubon county. A man who has always taken a commendable interest in matters of public concern, he has added very much to the community spirit by his wise counsel and careful guidance. He well deserves the confidence and high regard of his neighbors and fellow citizens, for he has justly earned this confidence and regard by long and meritorious service.

J. C. JENSEN.

J. C. Jensen, a well-known farmer of Cameron township, who has lived in America less than thirty years, and who, in order to make the voyage to America, was compelled to borrow money of friends, now owns a splendid farm of two hundred and eighty acres in Cameron township, this county, and is one of the highly respected citizens of that community. Mr. Jensen was born in Denmark on October 9, 1863, the son of Andrew P. and Mary (Jensen) Jensen, the former of whom was a farmer all his life, and the father of nine children, eight of whom are living. J. C. Jensen and his sister, Mrs. Kate Rasmussen, are the only members of the family who are living in America.

After having completed his education in the public schools of his native land, J. C. Jensen worked as a farm hand until he came to America in 1888. Upon arriving in this country he located at Walnut, Iowa, and there he worked as a farm hand until his marriage in 1894, after which he began farming for himself in Shelby county. For five years he was engaged in cultivating a rented farm, and at the end of that time came to Audubon county, and purchased eighty acres near Fiscus, where he farmed for four years, after which he removed to Cameron township, and purchased the farm where he is now living. Since purchasing and moving to this farm

in Cameron township, Mr. Jensen has invested in improvements upwards of five thousand dollars. He raises seventy acres of corn every year, which yields an average of fifty bushels to the acre, and all of this he feeds to his hogs and cattle, raising one hundred head of hogs every year, and selling one and one-half carloads of cattle. He raises thoroughbred Aberdeen-Angus cattle, and has been very successful with this breed.

In 1894 J. C. Jensen was married to Kate Petersen, daughter of Henry Petersen, to which union nine children have been born, namely: Anna, Hattie, Marten, Carrie, Walter, Henry, Minnie, Esther and Cecil. Anna married Chris Seiger. The remainder of the children are at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Jensen are active in the membership of the Danish Lutheran church, in the faith of which their children have been reared, and Mr. Jensen is a liberal contributor to the support of the church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and politically is identified with the Republican party.

J. C. Jensen is well known in Audubon county, not only as a successful farmer, but as a citizen whose interests are centered in the welfare of his neighbors and fellow citizens, and is deservedly popular in Cameron township where he lives, he being a man whose word is known to be as good as his bond.

LUDWIG H. JOHANNSEN.

Since coming to America in 1881, Ludwig H. Johannsen, a well-known farmer of Villa township, this county, has become the owner of a splendid farm of one hundred and fifty-nine acres. He is the only member of the Johannsen family living in Audubon county.

Ludwig H. Johannsen was born in Schleswig, Germany, on January 1, 1857, the son of Julius and Christena Johannsen, both natives of and residents of that section of Germany, who came to America in 1881 and located in Scott county, Iowa, where Julius Johannsen worked in a saw-mill. He remained in Scott county the remainder of his life, dying in 1895. His widow, the mother of Ludwig H., is still living. In their native land, Julius Johannsen was a ditching contractor. He and his wife lived to rear a family of five children, who are living in different parts of the country.

After having completed his education in the German schools, Ludwig H. Johannsen, worked in a tobacco factory until he came to America with his parents. Naturally, he located in Scott county with his parents and there

he worked in a saw-mill with his father and also in a lumber yard. After remaining in Scott county for two years, he went to Wisconsin and worked as a logger in the timber until 1896, when he came to Audubon county and located in Melville township. After renting a farm in Melville township for about ten years, Mr. Johannsen purchased the farm where he now lives in Viola township. In addition to the land he owns he is also renting sixty acre of land. He raises eighty acres of corn every year and thirty acres of small grain, some of which he feeds to his hogs and cattle, but most of which he sells.

In 1885, four years after coming to America, Ludwig H. Johannsen was married to Anna Heyermann, daughter of Henry Heyermann, to which union seven children have been born, Henry, Hulda, George, Walter, Carl, William and Margaret, the latter two of whom are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Johannsen, although they are not members of any church, attend the Lutheran church. Mr. Johannsen is an independent Republican in politics and has served as school director in Melville township and worthily discharged the duties of that office.

The Johannsen family is well known and all of the members of this family are highly respected in Viola township, where they have lived for years. Mr. Johannsen is considered one of the enterprising spirits of that township and one of its most capable and successful farmers.

HOWARD G. SHOESMITH.

Howard G. Shoesmith, a well-known farmer of Greeley township, this county, has been one of the leading citizens of that township for years. Mr. Shoesmith rents a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Greeley township, which he is cultivating with rare skill.

Howard G. Shoesmith was born on May 14, 1881, at North Branch, Iowa, the son of Stephen and Mary (May) Shoesmith, both natives of England. He was educated in North Branch and after completing his education began farming, which occupation he has followed ever since.

On January 2, 1907, Howard G. Shoesmith was married to Mary Wahlert, who was born on April 9, 1880, the daughter of Jacob and Ernestine (Fritche) Wahlert, to which union have been born four children, Stella, Virgil, Marvel and Rollo.

Mr. Shoesmith is a member of the Methodist church and is identified with the Republican party.

ROBERT F. FRY.

Robert F. Fry, now a well-known and successful farmer of Melville township, this county, who owns a splendid farm of three hundred and twenty acres in this township, was born in Missouri on November 25, 1872, the son of John and Jane Fry, both natives of that state. John Fry was a farmer all his life, who removed from Missouri to Jasper county, Iowa, after his marriage, and after renting a farm in Jasper county, farmed there until 1882, when he moved to Cass county, this state, remaining there until 1885, in which year he came to Audubon county, locating in Melville township, where he rented a farm, which he managed until he retired. He is now living with his son, Robert F., the subject of this sketch. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, five of whom are living in Audubon county.

Robert F. Fry received his education in Audubon county, and after leaving school farmed with his father until he was twenty-one years old, at which time he rented a farm and started out for himself. In 1902 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Melville township and later purchased an additional quarter section, making in all three hundred and twenty acres which he now owns. Mr. Fry raises one hundred and twenty-five acres of corn every year, which yields an average of fifty bushels to the acre. He also raises seventy-five acres of small grain, and feeds out one hundred head of hogs every year. He sells a part of the grain and feeds the balance. Several thousand dollars in improvements have been invested on the three hundred and twenty acres of land which Mr. Fry owns.

In 1898 Robert F. Fry was married to Carrie Owen, daughter of William and Mary Owen, to which union four children have been born, Marie, Harry, Lillie and Owen, the latter of whom is deceased.

Mrs. Fry's father, William Owen, was born on May 1, 1841, in Lincolnshire, England, the son of Richard and Isabelle (Spencer) Owen, who came to America about 1869 and settled in Audubon county, buying a farm in Melville township, being among the pioneers in that locality. Later they moved to Viola township, and still later to Leroy township, locating near Williams. Richard Owen and wife sold their land in 1889, and after a visit to England returned to Exira, this county, and died at the home of their son, William, in August, 1895. William Owen was educated in the English schools and was married in 1866 to Mary Ann Clifton and in October, of that year, set sail for America. On April 7, 1870, they came to Audubon county and purchased land in Leroy township. Mrs. William Owen was

born on April 18, 1844, in Lincolnshire, England, the daughter of George and Jane (Spencer) Clifton, who died in their native land. A brother, now deceased, came to America with Mr. and Mrs. Owen. There have been twelve children in the family of Mr. and Mrs. William Owen; Robert J. F., William F., Richard, George Edward (deceased), Charles Clark, Worthy Earl, Carrie C., Lillie, Nancy A., Ethel M., Jane Elizabeth and George Washington, the latter of whom were twins, now deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Fry are members of the Presbyterian church. In politics Mr. Fry is a Democrat. He is one of the enterprising farmers and one of the well-known citizens of Melville township, a worthy son of a good father. Mr. Fry is yet a comparatively young man, and if his future accomplishments are to be measured by his past success he may be expected to be, some day, one of the most extensive landowners in the county.

GEORGE J. ALT.

George J. Alt, who now owns a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Melville township, this county, and twenty acres in Sharon township, was born on January 24, 1883, in Audubon county, Iowa, a son of William and Elizabeth (Lang) Alt, the former a native of Germany and the latter of the state of Illinois. William Alt came to America when a lad and settled in Illinois, where he grew to manhood and where he was married. He was a farmer and was engaged in this occupation during his entire life. In 1880 he came to Audubon county and located in Hamlin township, where he purchased eighty acres of land at eight dollars an acre. He broke the sod and improved the place generally, gradually increasing his holdings to two hundred and eighty-four acres. He died in 1906, after having reared a family of eleven children, nine of whom are still living. Philip and Bertha are the deceased children. The living children are Albert, William, George J., Nettie, Viola, Clara, Alma, Mae and Lena.

George J. Alt was educated principally in Hamlin township, this county, and engaged in farming with his father after finishing his education. Upon arriving at the age of twenty, he began renting land and continued as a renter for six years. In 1911 he purchased the place where he is now living. It comprises one hundred and sixty acres, and in the last four years Mr. Alt has invested sixty-five hundred dollars in improving the place. He raises eighty-five acres of corn, and about thirty acres of small grain every year.

He feeds out fifty head of hogs every year, and some twenty-five head of stock cattle. Mr. Alt sells a part of his grain and feeds the balance.

George J. Alt was married on February 21, 1906, about the time of his father's death, when he was twenty-three years old, to Lennie Hays, daughter of Frew and Marie (Reed) Hays, to which union five children have been born, Gilbert, Harley, Maynard, and two who died in infancy. Mrs. Alt also was born in this county. Her parents were natives of Illinois, who came to Audubon county in an early day and were pioneer settlers in Greeley township, where they are still living, having been engaged in farming there most of their lives. Of their nine children, eight are now living, namely: Lee, Bert, Winnie, Jennie, Lora, Nina, Lennie and Mary.

George J. Alt is a Republican, but he has never been active in the councils of his party, and has never been a candidate for office. His vocation has taken up all of his time, and he has had no opportunity to engage in anything aside from farming. He is a highly-respected citizen of Melville township, and is well known throughout the community in which he resides, being held in high regard by all who know him.

DANIEL ARTIST.

Daniel Artist is one of the earliest settlers in Greeley township, this county. He settled here in 1877 when there were but two houses between his farm in section 25, of Greeley township, and Exira. In those early days he was compelled to ship the lumber for the small house he built on his farm from Rock Island to Adair and haul it by wagon from Adair to the farm. Mr. Artist's first house was sixteen by twenty-four feet and had only two rooms downstairs and a small room upstairs. Mr. Artist gave four years of his life to the service of his country during the Civil War and today is regarded as one of the most substantial citizens of Audubon county.

Daniel Artist was born in Connelsville, Fayette county, Pennsylvania, in 1838, the son of Isaac and Marguerite (Smitzen) Artist, who died when their son, Daniel, was a small lad. He received but a limited education and in 1858, when he was twenty years old, went to Rock Island county, Illinois, where he lived on a farm until the breaking out of the Civil War.

On August 1, 1861, Daniel Artist enlisted in R. H. Graham's company of volunteer cavalry and went to Ft. Leavenworth to go in Jim Lane's command and was sent to Lexington. At the battle of Lexington, Missouri,

on September 20, 1861, he was taken prisoner and, after taking an oath not to fight against the state of Missouri or the Confederate states, he was sent home. An interesting circumstance in connection with the battle of Lexington is here narrated. A soldier having been wounded and having asked for water, the lieutenant in active command of the company, asked for a volunteer to procure some water for the suffering man. It was almost certain death to undertake to get the water in the face of the enemy's trenches. However, Daniel Artist was a willing volunteer and was successful, not only in getting water for his comrade, but in escaping back to his own line, amid a rain of bullets, the land being plowed up all round him by the leaden missiles. On August 12, 1862, Mr. Artist re-enlisted under Capt. Gabriel Armstrong in Company G, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served until July 12, 1865, receiving his discharge at Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Though he served throughout the entire war, he was not engaged in many hard battles, the siege of Vicksburg being the crowning incident of his military career. After the fall of Vicksburg, most of his service was performed in Arkansas, where he was engaged in fighting guerillas. At the close of the war Mr. Artist returned to Illinois and resumed farming, remaining there until 1877, when he came to Iowa and settled on the farm in section 25 of Greeley township, where he has since lived.

On October 31, 1867, Daniel Artist was married, in Rock Island county, Illinois, to Sarah A. Morgan, who was born on February 10, 1847, in Wales, the daughter of Llewellyn and Sarah (Williams) Morgan, the former of whom was a miner and stonemason by trade. He came to the United States in 1842, but returned to his native land, was married, and in 1848, came back to this country, bringing with him his family. They first settled in Pennsylvania, but later migrated to Illinois, where the father lived until his death. The mother then came to Audubon county, where she spent the rest of her life.

To Daniel and Sarah A. (Morgan) Artist eleven children have been born, as follow: Ida, who married William Newman and has four children, Mary, Clyde, Floyd and Lola; Sadie, who married Charles Marean and has one daughter, Mildred; George, who married Ella Flynn and has two children, Martha and Esther; Mary Irene (deceased) was the wife of Charles Marean and had one child, Earl, who is deceased; John, who married Mamie Goochey and has four children, Homer, Hugh, Helen and Margery; Clyde, deceased; Elmer, who has a homestead in Montana; Anne, who became the

wife of Elmer Fogg; Clara, who married Dayton West; Madge, who is the wife of Wilbur Coutts, and Robert, who lives at home.

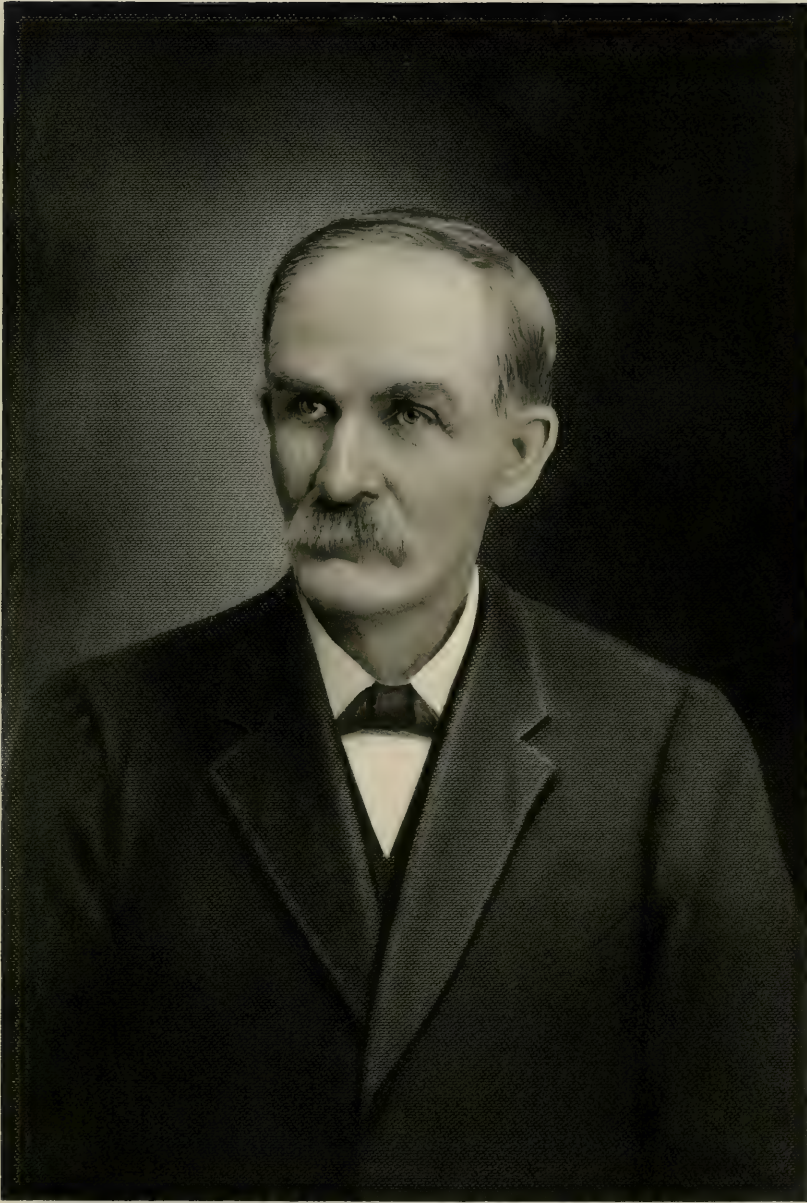
Mr. Artist is a member of Morton post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Exira and is a Republican in politics. He has served as school director and as justice of the peace in Greeley township and gave satisfactory service in both positions. The Artist family are members of the Bowman Chapel Methodist Episcopal church.

A veteran of our great Civil War and a hard working, industrious and enterprising citizen in the time of peace, affable and kindly in all of the relations of life, Daniel Artist is well entitled to the respect and admiration of the people of this county. Having saved from his earnings during the productive period of life, he is now blessed with a competence which he can enjoy during his declining years.

ABRAM R. ANDERSON.

Looking upon life from the common view-point, he who has wealth, friends, and social position, is held to be successful. By changing the angle a trifle, and looking at life from the standpoint of spiritual values, perhaps we would call him successful who, in the quiet and seclusion of his own hearth-stone, has attended to the duties and obligations which lay nearest him, even when doing so prevented him from becoming known in the great world of men and affairs. Abram R. Anderson, whose life history is here briefly chronicled, has had a measure of success in each of the above meanings of the word.

Mr. Anderson was born, August 30, 1856, in Wyandot, Ohio, the son of John N. and Zerma Anderson. His father was born in Marion county, Ohio, and his mother was a native of Pickaway county, the same state. While John N. Anderson was one of the early settlers of Audubon county, he did not live there, even during his young manhood, for he made his home in a number of places before locating permanently, and had but little opportunity for schooling. He spent the winter of 1858 in Scott county, Missouri, following this with a brief residence in Wray and Davis counties, the same state. It was in the year 1861 that he moved to Marion county, Iowa, and bought a small farm near Attica, where he remained for fourteen years. Coming to Leroy township, he was one of the pioneers in that neighborhood, his home being in section 25. Like all pioneers, he had to be content at first with a crude mode of life, for what he called home was only a shanty con-



A.R. ANDERSON

structed of boards, but it was on a tract of one hundred and twenty acres which he owned, and he also put up a barn of the same crude material. When he died in 1883, at the age of seventy-one, he was the owner of two hundred and eighty acres of land. In politics, he was a Republican. Not only as an "old settler," but as a man of influence in the community, he was known and respected. His wife, died in 1910, at the age of eighty-three.

Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, but only three of these grew up. They were, Abram R., whose name heads this sketch; Bastian J. born on January 27, 1862, and Doc, born on April 22, 1867, who is now a farmer in Hamlin township, this county. The two elder brothers, who live together, never married.

The story of Abram's youth is soon told, for he had little opportunity to obtain an education, and worked for his father until manhood, and then, continuing to live with his parents, took care of them in their old age. This story though brief, might portray to the imagination years of strenuous work and deprivation, and a devotion to duty which meant for him the sacrifice of his own happiness; but these years were given without complaint.

Continuing in the line of his father's activities, Mr. Anderson has become the possessor of valuable land. Among his acquisitions of real estate are three hundred and sixty acres in Leroy township, two hundred acres in Greeley township, two hundred acres in Carroll county, one-half section in Lincoln county, Minnesota, one-half section in Canada, and three hundred and ten acres in Oklahoma.

Mr. Anderson has always been much interested in the subject of stock raising. He has a good grade of draft horses, usually having on his farm from forty to forty-five head, and also raises Polled Angus cattle, of which he keeps about twenty-five on the farm. He is also a breeder of full-blooded Hampshire hogs. The extent of this phase of his work is shown by the fact that from two to three carloads of cattle are shipped from his farm every year.

Among his possessions, of which Mr. Anderson is justly proud, is a modern corn-bin and granary built in 1912, its dimensions being thirty by forty-two feet. There are many other valuable improvements on this well-managed farm, including a spacious barn, forty-two by seventy-two feet, and a new hog-house twenty-four by forty-eight feet.

Although a Republican, Mr. Anderson has never been ambitious to hold public office, and so far as affiliations are concerned, has been content with his Masonic lodge in Audubon, and with his church membership in the Methodist denomination.

Although Mr. Anderson's life has been spent "far from the madding crowd," it has been a busy life, and a useful one. Devoting many years to the care of his aged father and mother, he has fulfilled an obligation no less praiseworthy because it was self-imposed, and now that the obligation no longer exists, his thoughts may be blessed with the consciousness of a duty well done.

BENJAMIN J. BLACK.

Few farmers living in Audubon county are better known than Benjamin J. Black, who is at present serving as county supervisor of this county. Mr. Black for years has been prominent in the educational, political and civic life of Audubon county and few of the younger farmers of this county have accomplished more in the same length of time than he and few are more deserving of the confidence and esteem of the people of this county. Mr. Black owns eighty acres of land in Melville township and three hundred and twenty acres in North Dakota, and is farming a total of two hundred and thirty-two acres in Melville township.

Benjamin J. Black was born in Muscatine county, Iowa, on October 8, 1874, the son of James and Mary (Woods) Black, the former of whom was a native of Indiana, and the latter of whom came from Kentucky. When James Black was fourteen years of age he came with his parents from Indiana to Iowa, locating in Muscatine county, where he grew to manhood, remaining there until 1888, when he came to Audubon county, and located on the farm where Benjamin J., his son, is now living. He purchased eighty acres of land and farmed that until his death in 1908. His widow is still living. Their four children were William, Mary, Emma and Benjamin J.

Benjamin J. Black received his education largely in the public schools of Audubon county. After completing the course in the common schools he took a business course at the Capital City Commercial College at Des Moines. Thus admirably equipped for his life's vocation, he returned to his home in Audubon county, and took up farming with his father, and was thus engaged until his marriage in 1903, at which time he rented a farm and farmed rented land for three years. Upon the death of his father, he purchased the home place, and has since been living there. Since buying the farm in 1908, he has invested approximately thirty-five hundred dollars in various kinds of improvements. Mr. Black annually raises eighty acres of

corn and feeds at least one hundred head of hogs. He also raises forty acres of hay.

On November 26, 1903, when Benjamin J. Black was twenty-nine years old, he was married to Martha J. Simmons, daughter of Joseph and Mary (Goff) Simmons, to which happy union six children, Howard W., Everett A., Lucile, William, Robert and Martha E. have been born. All of these children are living at home with their parents, and they make a very happy group, in fact one of the most popular families in Melville township.

Mr. Black is popular in fraternal circles of his county and is a member of the Masonic lodge at Audubon and of the Modern Woodmen of America. A Democrat, he is the present county supervisor of Audubon county, and has served as school director and township clerk and as road supervisor.

Few men can be said to have a wider interest in matters which concern the public generally than Mr. Black. Interested in education, in good roads, in politics, and in the improvement of community spirit, he is a worthy citizen of Audubon county and one of the leading farmers and citizens of Melville township.

ALBERT W. WESTON.

One of the enterprising and successful young farmers of this county is Albert W. Weston, the proprietor of the "Hillside Stock Farm," comprising two hundred and eighty acres of land, located in section 5 of Melville township. Although Mr. Weston is not yet thirty years of age, he has made a remarkable success of his chosen vocation. He is enterprising in his methods, a careful student of the details of farm operation, and in consequence has prospered in his calling; not so much because he has confined himself to raising grain, though he has won distinction as a grower of pure Reid's Yellow Dent corn, but because he has devoted a considerable portion of his attention to stockraising. He is well known in Melville township, and is highly respected by all the people of that township. Mr. Weston makes a specialty of Clydesdale horses and Shorthorn cattle, and has taken numerous prizes on some of the splendid animals on his farm. As a corn grower, Mr. Weston also has attained an unusual distinction in this county, having won the sweepstakes prize on corn at the Audubon county fair five times in six years. In 1914 he won seventeen ribbons, including sweepstakes prize, at the Audubon county fair, and a silver loving cup at the "Big Four" county farmers institute, inclusive of the counties of Audubon, Adair, Cass and Guthrie;

also the second prize for single ear at the state corn show at Ames, and the fifth prize for bushel at the same show.

Albert W. Weston was born in Melville township, this county, on June 1, 1887, a son of Walter W. and Isophene (Benson) Weston, the former of whom was born in Wisconsin on April 11, 1853, and the latter in Illinois in July, 1855. Walter W. Weston came from Wisconsin to Audubon county in 1877, and was married here shortly after arriving from his native state. Soon after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Weston moved on the old Benson farm, where they lived for a number of years. During the early eighties they started in to build up the farm, which at that time was little more than raw prairie land, and remained there until 1911, when they retired and moved to Audubon. To Walter W. and Isophene (Benson) Weston eight children were born, namely: Mrs. Edith Willard, of Lansing, Iowa; Mrs. May Finch, of Goshen, Utah; Mrs. Minnie Edwards, of Lake City, California; Albert, with whom this narrative deals; Frank, of Melville township; Mrs. Nina Patefield, of Edgar, Wisconsin; Louis, a farmer of this township; Margaret, living at home, and Charles, deceased.

Albert W. Weston was educated in the public schools of Melville township, and also took a course at the State Agricultural College at Madison, Wisconsin. At the latter institution he received a thorough scientific training for his chosen vocation, and since leaving college has applied himself diligently to the problems of the farm and to their solution. Mr. Weston has always lived on the home farm. He took sole charge of it upon his father's retirement in the spring of 1911, and since that time has operated it quite successfully. Mr. Weston is an extensive breeder of Clydesdale horses, and has exhibited several horses at the Iowa state fair, winning the state championship on mares. In 1914 he won three second premiums and two third premiums on four animals. He keeps fifteen head of purebred Clydesdale horses at the present time. Mr. Weston also makes a specialty of Short-horn cattle, and has a number of purebreds. He always has from sixty to one hundred head of cattle, and is one of the extensive cattle feeders of the county. Likewise, Mr. Weston specializes in purebred Poland China hogs, having now about one hundred head on the farm, keeping practically this number all the time, all of these hogs being either registered or eligible to registry.

On April 5, 1911, Albert W. Weston was married to Arvilla Bates, who was born in Story county, Iowa, on February 21, 1885, a daughter of Sylvester E. and Betty (Harrison) Bates, natives of Michigan and Iowa, respectively, who are now residing in Cambridge, Story county, Iowa. To Albert

W. and Arvilla (Bates) Weston two children have been born, Helen Pauline, born on November 4, 1912, and Albert, August 24, 1914.

Mr. Weston is a Republican, but with the exception of having served on the election board, has never held office. Mr. and Mrs. Weston are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Weston is not a member of any lodge, his business and his large farming interests having been too various and exacting to permit him to spend any time in lodge work. He and Mrs. Weston are held in high regard throughout that part of the county and enjoy the fullest esteem of all their neighbors.

IVER NELSEN.

A resident of the United States since he was twenty-eight years old, or since 1880, Iver Nelsen, a general farmer and stock raiser of Douglas township, this county, has saved a part of his earnings from year to year until he now owns one hundred and sixty acres of fine land in Douglas township. Born in Denmark on December 10, 1852, Mr. Nelsen is the son of Nels Petersen and Cecile Jensen, both natives of Denmark, where the former owned a small farm. They were the parents of three children, Mary Christiana, Christiana Maria and Iver. Both of the daughters are now deceased and Mr. Nelsen is the only member of the family living.

Iver Nelsen received his education in the Danish public schools, but was compelled to quit school at the age of fourteen after which he worked on the farm until twenty-eight years old, when he came to this country. After landing at New York City, he came west to Wisconsin, where he stopped for five or six weeks, after which he came to Iowa. He worked on a farm for two years and then rented a farm near Elkhorn, where he lived for eleven years. In 1894 he came to Audubon county and rented land in Douglas township, where he lived for four years. Having, in the meantime, saved a considerable amount of money from his earnings, he purchased eighty acres of land for twenty-eight dollars and fifty cents an acre. After owning this land for four years, he sold it for forty-five dollars an acre and bought one hundred and twenty acres in sections 16 and 17, for which he paid fifty-five dollars an acre. In 1910 Mr. Nelsen purchased an additional forty acres, for which he paid ninety dollars. These various prices indicate the rise in value of farm land in this section of the state. In addition to Mr. Nelsen's original investment in his land, he has also invested five thousand dollars in improve-

ments of various kinds. He feeds all of his grain to cattle and hogs, and sells a carload of cattle each year and a large number of hogs.

In 1883 Iver Nelson was married to Christiana Cramer, who was born in Denmark, the daughter of Chris Cramer, and to this union four children have been born, Chris, Christiana, William and Nels. Chris married Cecilia Hansen and lives at Ringstead, Iowa. Christiana married Jens C. Sloth and lives in Viola township, this county. William and Nels are unmarried and live at home.

The Nelsen family all belong to the Danish Lutheran church and are influential in the local congregation of that church. Mr. Nelsen is a good citizen of this great state, loyal to its institutions and enthusiastic on account of the opportunities offered to young men of other lands who have come to our shores and who have prospered here. He is well informed, intelligent, cordial in all of the relations of life, and is very popular with all the people of Douglas township, among whom he is well known, he and his family being held in the highest esteem.

HENRY RABE.

Self assertion is believed by many people to be absolutely necessary to success in life, and there are good reasons for entertaining such belief. The modest man very rarely gets what is due him. The selfish, aggressive man elbows his way to the front and takes all that is in sight, until it sometimes seems that modesty is a sin and self-denial a wrong. There are, however, exceptions to all rules, and it is a matter greatly to be regretted that the exceptions are not more numerous. One notable exception is Henry Rabe, whose life history is here presented. Mr. Rabe possesses just sufficient modesty to be a gentleman at all times, yet sufficient persistency to win in the business world. As a result of these well and happily-blended qualities Henry Rabe has won a host of friends in Audubon county, and is well known as an enterprising farmer of Hamilton township.

Henry Rabe was born in Hanover, Germany, on September 18, 1851, the son of Henry and Katrina (Supthut) Rabe, natives of that country. Henry Rabe was a farmer and also did painting and engraving. He and his wife were the parents of two children, Henry, the subject of this sketch, and Sophia, the latter of whom married Herr Ploghoft and lives in Bremen, Germany.

Until he was fourteen years of age, Henry Rabe attended school and then worked on his father's farm until twenty years old. After that he served in the German army until twenty-four years old, at the conclusion of which he resumed work on his father's farm, where he continued to live until he was twenty-nine years old. In March, 1881, Henry Rabe left the old country and came to the United States, landing at New York City, proceeding thence to Crawford county, this state, where he took up farm work, "by the month," and thus engaged for three years. In 1884 he came to Audubon county and rented a farm in Melville township, remaining there for about eight years, at the end of which time he purchased about forty acres of land in Leroy township. In the fall of 1899 he sold that farm and purchased eighty acres in sections 11 and 14 in Hamlin township, which farm he sold in the fall of 1906 and purchased eighty acres in section 14 of the same township, where he now lives. In 1914 Mr. Rabe bought one hundred and sixty acres in section 13 of Hamlin township. His home farm was fully improved when he bought it, but he has since built a large barn and made other substantial improvements.

On September 16, 1889, Henry Rabe was married to Minna Kassenhaschen, who was born in Oldenburg, Germany, on March 28, 1857, the daughter of Gerard and Sophia (Busing) Kassenhaschen, natives of the same place. Gerard Kassenhaschen was a farmer and he and his wife were the parents of seven children, four of whom are still living, two of them living in the United States. Of these children, Henry was a farmer and a resident of Audubon county. Lena married Fred Buchholtz and lives in New York City, and Sophia married Henry Buchholtz and lives in Bremen, Germany.

To Henry and Minna (Kassenhaschen) Rabe five children have been born, four of whom are living, namely: Harry, born on March 21, 1891; Fred, January 24, 1893; John, June 11, 1895; William, August 27, 1897, was accidentally drowned on June 28, 1914, and Lena, June 15, 1899.

Henry Rabe is engaged quite successfully in general farming and stock raising. When he came to Audubon county in 1881 hogs were two dollars and forty cents the hundred weight; corn was fourteen and fifteen cents the bushel and land could be bought in Iowa for nine dollars and fifty cents an acre.

Mr. Rabe is a Democrat, but has held no public offices of prominence and has never been especially interested in politics. The family are members of the Lutheran church and active in the affairs of that church, to the support of which Mr. Rabe is a liberal contributor.

JOHN MOORE.

To write the personal record of men who have raised themselves from humble circumstances to positions of responsibility and trust in a community is no ordinary pleasure. Self-made men, men who have achieved success by reason of their personal qualities and who have left the impression of their individuality on the business growth of their township, affect for good such institutions as are embraced in the sphere of their usefulness, and unwittingly, perhaps, build monuments more enduring than marble obelisk or granite shaft. To this class belongs John Moore, a well-known farmer of Hamlin township, this county.

John Moore was born in Queens county, Ireland, on November 5, 1859, the son of John and Ann (Fitzpatrick) Moore, both natives of the same county, as were their parents. John Moore's father, John Moore, Sr., was the son of John Moore, whose wife was a Dempsey. John Moore, the subject of this sketch, was descended on his maternal side from James Fitzpatrick, who married a Brophy. Mr. Moore's mother's uncle, Dan Fitzpatrick, was one of the earliest settlers in Cedar county, Iowa. In June, 1861, John and Anna (Fitzpatrick) Moore came to the United States, their son, John, being then but two years old. They landed at New York, where they lived a short time, and then moved to Philadelphia, where the father went to work as a carpenter for the United States government. He worked in the arsenal at Frankfort, near Philadelphia, where he was employed until the close of the Civil War. In November, 1865, the family came west to Iowa City, where the father helped to build a wing on the State University building, hanging all the doors and all the windows in the building. In March, 1883, the family came to Audubon county, where they located on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in section 24 of Hamlin township, which the father had purchased in the fall of 1882, giving fifteen dollars an acre for it, and there the father and mother spent the rest of their lives, his death occurring on March 25, 1905, and hers on August 11, 1909. They were the parents of six children, five daughters and one son, that lived to maturity. Of these children Mary married Gerald Dempsey. Kate, now deceased, taught school in Audubon county for about six years. Bridget died in Johnson county, Iowa. Elizabeth, who married Michael Dwyer, also is now deceased. She also was for some years a school teacher in Audubon county. Marguerite married Richard Barry, to which union nine children were born. Their son, John Barry, rents Mr. Moore's farm and operates it quite successfully, mak-

ing his home with Mr. Moore. John Moore and his parents and all the Moore family are members of the Catholic church. None of the family has been active in politics and none of them has held public office.

In 1912 John Moore showed a registered Belgian mare at the state fair at Des Moines and took second premium. He has also taken four first prizes at the local county fairs, and took the sweepstakes at the fair in 1912. Two of his mares are imported Belgians. The raising of thoroughbred horses has proved a very lucrative vocation in this section of the state and no man has made a greater success of the business than John Moore, of Hamlin township. Mr. Moore is highly respected in his community and is well known throughout the county generally, all who know him holding him in the highest esteem.

HENRICK PETER PAULSEN.

Again are we interested in the courage and ambition which were pronounced enough to attract a youth of twenty-two from the fields of his native home across the ocean to the rich, productive soil of Iowa. And he became one of those sturdy pioneers whose lives, by their examples of industry and thrift, have become an inspiration not only to their own children, but to the neighborhood as well. The land-owning instinct seemed to show itself very early in the career of this young man, for he had not been in this country very long until he had acquired a title to what was the beginning of his fortune. Henrick Peter Paulsen, a retired farmer of Audubon, Iowa, is a native of Svendborg, on the island of Funen, Denmark. His parents were Peter and Carrie Paulsen, the father born in Holstein, and the mother in Svendborg. The former was a manufacturer of brick, owning his own brick yard. He died in Svendborg in 1884, his wife surviving until 1911. Peter and Carrie Paulsen were active in the membership of the Lutheran church and their three children, Jens, now a painter in San Francisco, California; Henrick Peter, the subject of this sketch, and Anders, a farmer in Denmark, were reared in that faith.

More fortunate than some of his neighbors, Henrick Paulsen was able to attend both the common schools and the high school of Denmark, subsequently working for his father until he set sail for America. Upon arriving here he first settled at West Point, New York, where he lived for six months, at the end of which time he came West, locating in Jackson township, Shelby county, Iowa, where he purchased eighty acres of land, eighteen of which

he improved. Selling this, he bought land in Sharon township, where he prospered, gradually buying more land until his holdings now amount to two hundred and sixty-nine acres of valuable land, upon which he has placed between seven and eight thousand dollars' worth of improvements. In 1914 Mr. Paulsen retired from the farm and took up his residence in Audubon, where he is now living.

Mr. Paulsen, who is considered one of the best farmers of this county, has given much attention to the breeding of Shorthorn cattle, having shipped a great many. He has also dealt largely in hogs and draft horses, as well as having been a breeder of Percheron horses, in which he has been interested for several years. He is the owner of a very fine stallion, "Keif," born in June, 1909.

On March 1, 1890, Henrick P. Paulsen was united in marriage to Sena Hansen, of Denmark, daughter of Hans and Mary Hansen, who were the parents of the following children: Carl, who lives in Denmark; Johanna, also a resident of her native country; Carrie, who died in Shelby county, Iowa, and Sena, who married Mr. Paulsen.

To Henrick P. and Sena (Hansen) Paulsen four children have been born, namely: Carrie, who lives at home; Peter, who has become a good farmer like his father, married Alma Jensen, and lives on the old homestead in Sharon township; Maggie and Henry, who live with their parents in Audubon.

While Mr. Paulsen has lived a busy, industrious life, he has not mingled much in civic nor political affairs, and has never sought office. In spite of this fact, however, he has been a school director in Sharon township. In national elections, he votes the Democratic ticket, but in local elections he chooses rather to vote for the man of his preference, regardless of party. Both he and his wife attend the Lutheran church, where their influence for good is strongly felt, and they have many friends in this county.

The success attained by this family is rather remarkable when one considers that it is the result of their own unaided efforts. No legacy of wealth nor land was his when Henrick Peter Paulsen, strong in the hope of youth, and enthusiastic with the courage of inexperience, left home and parents to see what the New World had in store for him. His wealth was then only potential, but he believed it possible for it to become actual, and the after years have proved that he was right. He has shown that he was a good manager, and it is but proper that he should be accorded a place among the prosperous and prominent men of this county.

THOMAS JAMES ESSINGTON.

The late Thomas James Essington, who at the time of his death owned four hundred and forty acres of land in Exira and Oakfield townships and one hundred and sixty acres in Nebraska, has had a varied career. Born in Maine and educated there, after leaving school he became a sailor and worked before the mast for three years, at the end of which time went to California and engaged in mining. From California he went to Idaho and there he worked for three years, coming to Audubon county, Iowa, in 1867, where he worked as a farm hand until he purchased forty acres of land and began farming for himself.

Thomas James Essington was born on December 20, 1839, in Maine. His parents were William and Mary (Murch) Essington, the former a native of England and the latter of Maine. William Essington had come from England to New Brunswick when he was a boy. He was educated in that country and there grew to manhood. He also had gone to sea and sailed before the mast for a few years before locating permanently in the state of Maine, where he worked in a saw-mill until he was quite an old man. Eventually, he located on a small farm of fifty acres and remained there the remainder of his life. William and Mary Essington were the parents of nine children, namely: Thomas James, William, John G., Stephen, George W., Georgiana, Madaline, Jane and Frankie. Frankie and Thomas James are the only members of this family who are now living.

Mr. Essington received his education in Maine and after serving a few years as a sailor and working in the mines of the western states, he began his career as a farmer by purchasing forty acres of land. He increased his holdings from time to time until at the time of his death, he owned six hundred acres of land in Iowa and Nebraska. He was accustomed to raise one hundred and sixty acres of corn on his farm and seventy-five acres of small grains. He fed about one hundred head of hogs each year and from two to three carloads were sold from his place.

Thomas James Essington was married on October 20, 1867, to Mary Alley, the daughter of Samuel and Emeline Alley, and to this union there were born seven children, namely: Charles, Roscoe, William, Agnes, Grace, Emeline and Mayme. Charles married Ida Davis and has two children, Hayden and Mary Elizabeth. Roscoe married Fannie Rich and has one child, Madeline. William married Anna Stendor and has two children, Frank and Evelyn. Agnes married Elem Bills and they have seven children,

Wilber, Merri, Madalyn, Margaret, Emeline, Addie and Milroy. Grace became the wife of Isaac Smith and they are the parents of seven children, Gussie, Roscoe, Henry, Chris, Bessie, Dolly and Wilma. Emeline is the wife of Thomas McGovern and has three children, Bernice, Thomas J. and Ernestine.

Thomas James Essington was long identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and was a past grand in this lodge. He was a Republican in politics and served as school treasurer for thirty-nine years. He was a member of the board of supervisors at one time and also had served as school director. Few men living in Audubon county surpassed Mr. Essington in real nobility of character. He was a man who was devoted primarily to the interests of his home and family but he took a worthy interest in public affairs. To say that he is missed not only by the surviving members of a devoted family but by the community as well is to state a very small part of the truth. Thomas James Essington was a worthy citizen of the great Hawkeye state, with which he cast his fortunes and where he lived so many years.

WILLIAM P. McLERAN.

To those accustomed to the roar of the city streets, it sometimes seems that lives spent in the country must lack something of the variety and change which makes life interesting. But they forget that for what she takes away, Nature gives generous compensation. They forget the marvelous changeableness of nature, the hourly shifting of scene in cloud and earth that becomes a glorious panorama to eyes that can see. The man whose daily bread is dependent upon the cultivation of the soil, must inevitably imbibe into his own life and being some of the beauty and strength of his surroundings, but some are able to do this in greater degree than others. For this and other reasons, the man whose name forms the caption of this sketch rises above the average, and is therefore entitled to proper mention in the present volume.

William P. McLeran was born on January 20, 1867, in Bureau county, Illinois, the son of William and Betsy (Blanchard) McLeran, both natives of Caledonia county, Vermont, the former born on October 14, 1824, and the latter on December 5, 1829. After their marriage, which took place on March 19, 1853, they migrated to Bureau county, Illinois, and settled four miles south of Neponset. No splendid mansion was theirs. They built a modest little home on a choice spot of their prairie farm, and began farming,

living there for twenty-five years, at the end of which time they came to Audubon county, where they purchased land in section 30, Leroy township, one and one-half miles west of Audubon. That was in March, 1880, and in the following year they built their new home, and improved the land, residing there until 1895, in which year they retired from the farm and moved to Audubon, which has since been the family home. Mrs. McLeran died there on October 28, 1909.

The elder McLeran has always been considered a good farmer. When a young man, however, he varied his occupation by doing railroad work in Pennsylvania and Vermont for about six years. Although an enthusiastic Democrat, he has never sought public office, preferring to do his daily work in his chosen calling. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, as was his wife, and their children were reared in that faith. These children were eight in number, namely: Abbie, the widow of E. D. Van Court, of Omaha, Nebraska, whose children are Blanche and William T., the latter living in Omaha, Nebraska; Simeon, who died in 1906, was a farmer living at Louisville, Nebraska, for twenty-five years, during part of which time he was engaged in the real estate and pottery business; Helen, the wife of F. A. Chiddester, of Aurora, Nebraska, and the mother of two children, Bessie and Elsie; Elsie, who died at the age of twenty-nine; William P., the subject of this sketch; George R., in the life insurance business in Chicago, married Ola Ogden, and has one son, Donald; Herbert, a farmer living on part of the old home place in Leroy township, married Clara Evans, and has two children, Lewis and Elsie, and Charles, of Audubon, who married Bertha Musson and has two children, Thomas and Helen.

William M. McLeran was educated in the schools of the county and cooperated with his father in their agricultural pursuits until the former retired from active work. On November 3, 1892, William P. McLeran was married to Rosetta Schwartz, of Green county, Pennsylvania, and to this union six children have been born, Florence E., Blanche M., William and Warren (twins), George and Margaret. Mr. and Mrs. McLeran are members of the Presbyterian church, in the faith of which their children have been reared, and are held in high esteem by all who know them.

Mr. McLeran, like his father, has built up a splendid reputation as a good, conscientious, successful farmer and stock raiser. His Poland China and Duroc-Jersey hogs and draft horses are among the finest in the county. He feeds as many as ninety head of hogs a year. Both he and his father are well read, and are progressive in their ideas. The father, though along in years, is strong and hearty, and well preserved. Their farm is a matter of

pride to the neighborhood, so well is it kept and so scientifically is it managed. Such a family is a power in any neighborhood, for their lives go to make up that part of the community by which it is known, composed of the people whom the world does not forget when they are gone. William P. McLeran is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and stands high among his associates in that popular order. He is a Democrat and takes an intelligent interest in the political affairs of the county, being regarded as an excellent citizen.

ALBERT J. SHUPE.

Self-made men are so numerous in America that we have ceased to wonder at them. They are men whose courage and indomitable will power have been so great that for them difficulty and hardship simply did not exist. But most of such men have had the counsel and encouragement and love of their parents, even though they may not have had their financial help. His must have been a stout heart indeed, who, left without either father or mother at the tender age of eleven, could, by his industry, lay the foundation of a career which now places him in an enviable position among his fellow-men. And this notwithstanding the fact that early individual freedom was somewhat hampered by his being "bound out," a custom now obsolete. From a little apprentice lad, Albert J. Shupe, of Audubon county, has become one of its most prominent landowners, and lives in a beautiful home on a valuable tract of land consisting of two hundred acres.

Mr. Shupe was born on November 10, 1861, in Warren county, Iowa, being the son of Henry M. and Sophia (DeLong) Shupe, the latter being the first wife. Henry Shupe was a native of Pennsylvania, lived for a while in Ohio, and then located in Warren county, near Lacone, where he bought prairie land, built his home and lived until his death, in 1872. He became a farmer and stock raiser in this county in 1854. His death occurred when he was thirty-five years of age. His first wife died in 1865, having borne him four sons. These were Madison, a farmer in Alberta, Canada; Hiram R., a butcher in Pocahontas county, Iowa, for twenty years, also a retired farmer; Albert J., the subject of this biography; and Arthur D., a farmer in South Dakota. His second wife was Levina Cooper. Children born of the second marriage were Lemme, who has been for a number of years engaged in agriculture in South Dakota; Annie, the wife of Levi Griffin, of Oklahoma; Homer, also of this state, and a child who died in infancy.

When Albert was a lad of four, his mother was taken away, and when only eleven his father died, and he lived for a few years with his grandfather, Jacob Shupe. Until the age of twenty he was "bound out," and therefore the education which he coveted was denied him, although nature, which became his daily close companion, taught him many things. His schooling consisted of a few terms in the country school, but he made the most of those advantages. For five years, beginning on September 10, 1882, he rented land one mile north and one mile west of Audubon, and at the end of that time bought eighty acres in Douglas township, where he has lived ever since.

A splendid modern nine-room house has replaced the old house that stood on the site when he purchased it, this being built in 1912. Eleven years prior to that, he built a fine barn, remodeling it in 1914. It is now thirty-six by eighty feet with twenty-foot post. His home is complete in all of its equipments, having hot and cold water, furnace heat and gas, and is one of the attractive residences of the neighborhood. Altogether, over ten thousand dollars' worth of improvements have made this farm one of the finest in the county. He now owns two hundred acres in sections 25 and 36 and has a tract of land in Alberta, Canada.

Besides his enterprise in agriculture, Mr. Shupe has attained success as a stock raiser, having on his place from forty to fifty head of Shorthorn cattle a year, seventy-five to one hundred head of Poland China hogs, besides fifteen draft horses of Percheron and Belgian breed.

Mr. Shupe has been twice married, his first wife being Lydia Mills, of Warren county, Iowa, who died in 1896, leaving two children, Roy, living at home, and Icicle, who died at the age of eleven years. The second marriage of Mr. Shupe occurred on October 9, 1900, his wife being Christina Brandt, a widow, daughter of Bolser Thompson, of Sharon township. Their children are William, Arnold, Gladys and Harold.

That the man whose name forms the caption of this sketch is held in honor by his fellow countrymen is shown by the fact that they have made him a trustee of Douglas township, and he has served in this capacity for several years. He was also school director for two years, and has been keenly interested in placing the schools of his county on a high plane of excellence. In politics, Mr. Shupe is a Democrat.

Mrs. Shupe is almost as well known as her husband. What he has done for the schools and for the neighborhood in general, she has done for the church, being much interested in the work of the Lutheran denomination. She takes a very active part in all movements for human betterment, and is

a great help to her husband, not limiting her energies to the duties of a household, although these are never neglected. Both of these residents have become a part of the life of the community in which their lot is cast, and both have made it a better place in which to live.

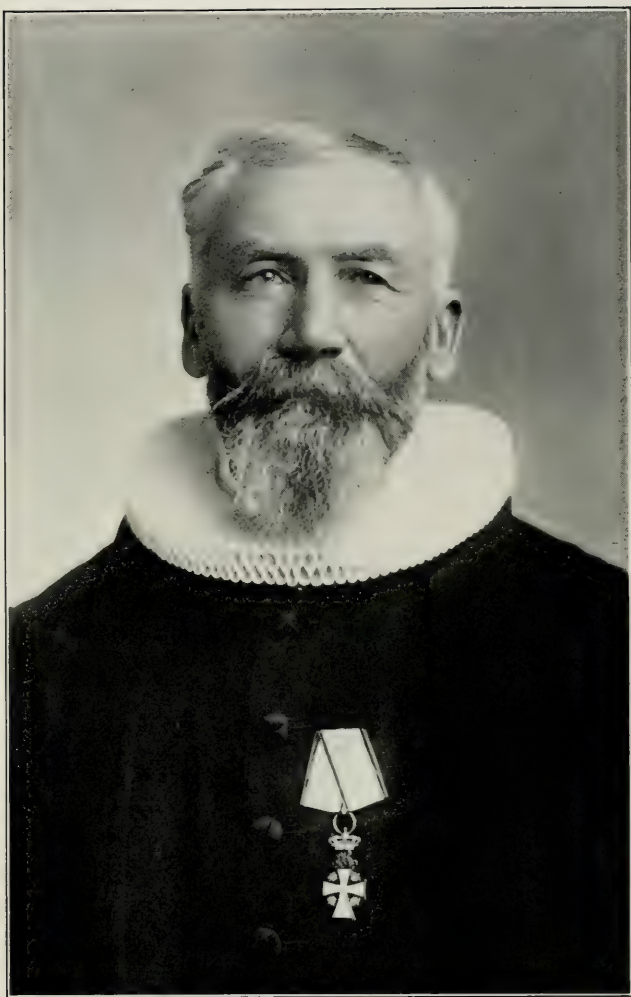
REV. GOTTLIEB BENDER CHRISTIANSEN.

The church and the school are the two great forces which make for a broader and better civilization. Their mission is not to compete with the home in the matter of moral training, but rather to supplement its teachings. The man, therefore, who makes his life work the service of humanity through the church, is set apart from his fellowmen by a loftiness of purpose which not only transforms the lives of others, but which likewise puts his own character and conduct upon a higher plane. To the man who loves his work there is no compensation like the consciousness of having done that work well; when his mission is to uplift human life and minister to the physical and spiritual needs of the people, the plaudits of the multitude are unnecessary, for he has his reward in the knowledge of priceless service well rendered. But the public is always interested in the life of a man devoted to its service, and for this reason, as well as for the intrinsic worth of the man, no one is more deserving of mention here than he whose name appears at the head of this chapter.

Rev. Gottlieb Bender Christiansen, pastor of the Ebenezer Evangelical Danish Lutheran church of Audubon county, is one of the best-known men in the county. Not only as a minister of the gospel is he respected, but as the president of a theological seminary, he has won the esteem and admiration of students and faculty alike.

Gottlieb Christiansen was born October 27, 1851, in Middlefast, Denmark, and was the son of Christian and Elsie Cathrina (Dalton) Christiansen, who were pious, hard-working people. They lived all of their lives in the birthplace of the subject of this sketch, the father being a successful farmer. All of their children were brought up according to the tenets of the Lutheran denomination. Gottlieb's family circle was broken by the early death of four unnamed children. The others were, in the order of their birth: Hans, now living in Denmark; Nels and Carl, both deceased; Elsie Marie and Rasmus Carl, both residing in their native town.

Having graduated in the schools of his birthplace, the subject of this



REV. GOTTLIEB B. CHRISTIANSEN

review studied to become a private teacher, a vocation which he followed for two years. But his ambition led the youth to desire a wider field, so he embarked for America when he was twenty-six years of age, and first matriculated in Augsburg College, Minneapolis, where he studied for four years. After his ordination to the ministry, in 1881, he preached in Council Bluffs, Iowa, for a period of four and a half years, and then for a similar length of time in Albert Lee, Iowa. He was then elected president of Trinity Seminary at Blair, Nebraska, serving in that capacity from 1890 until 1896. From the latter date until 1904, he preached in Omaha, Nebraska, leaving there to accept the call at the church in Audubon which he now serves. In 1896, a signal honor was bestowed upon Rev. Christiansen when the United Danish Evangelical Lutheran church was organized, and elected him to its presidency, an office which he still holds.

On June 23, 1881, Rev. Christiansen was married to Miss Lena Larsen, of Denmark, who was born in the same town, attended the same school and was confirmed at the same time as the man who in after years became her husband.

Mr. and Mrs. Christiansen's children are seven in number. Herman, the eldest, is living in San Francisco, California, and is engaged in the furniture and crockery business. Julia became the wife of Berkhard Eskelsen, of Hampton, Nebraska. Carl is now a real-estate dealer in Elkhorn, Iowa. Christian is a well-known carpenter in Audubon. Johannas follows the painter's trade, and lives in Lincoln, Nebraska. Anna married Martin Kjn, of Audubon, and Joseph lives at Brush, Colorado. Realizing the value of an education, Mr. and Mrs. Christiansen gave their children the advantages of the schools in Blair and Omaha, Nebraska, and in Elkhorn, and some of their family graduated from high school.

The success of the modern preacher is in no small degree effected by the character and ability of his wife, for she plays a most important part in the life of the church to which he ministers. No sketch of the life of a minister is therefore complete without reference to the faithfulness and devotion of his wife, not only in the home, but also in the larger church home. Indeed, if she be not tactful and resourceful and unselfish, the work of her husband may be seriously handicapped. It is fitting, therefore, that mention be made of the valuable services of Mrs. Christiansen, which, in spite of her large family and their demands upon her time and strength, extended to the wide circle of church members and friends to whom her husband was called to minister.

On January 12, 1913, "Ridder of Dannebrug," a degree of honor for efficient service as a minister, was presented to Rev. Christiansen by the king of Denmark.

One would expect a man holding the position he has held as a leader in his denomination to be a student of life as well as of books, and Rev. Christiansen is both. He has the culture of the scholar, the refinement of the gentleman, and the nobility of the Christian. Having lived a life of altruism, it has now become a habit, and he finds his highest joy in service. The influence of such a man is incalculable, and not the least part of this good is in the countless little nameless acts of kindness which never reach farther than the person whom they help, and yet which give meaning and worth to the public career of the minister. Rev. Christiansen has been a power in the county where he now resides, and both he and his good wife have a host of friends, not only in their church, but in the wider confines of the neighborhood. To be able to diffuse so much good by active service and his own wholesome life, and to deserve and secure the respect and esteem of all who know him is better praise than words can convey, but the real tribute is in the hearts of those whom he has helped, and this tribute must ever be silent, for it can only be felt.

JENS P. SCHOUBOE.

Perhaps no man living in Audubon county has broke up more prairie sod than Jens P. Schouboe, a retired farmer and merchant of Sharon township, who was born in Denmark, May 4, 1855, the son of Peter P. and Christina Schouboe, and who came to America in 1874, locating first at Oxford, New Jersey. Mr. Schouboe's father was a brick layer and carpenter by trade, and died in Denmark in 1906. His wife, the mother of Jens P. Schouboe, died four years previously, in 1902. Of their five children only three are now living, Jess, Jens P. and Marie.

Jens P. Schouboe received his education in the schools of his native land and after leaving school took up the carpenter's trade and also the mason's trade. After working at Oxford, New Jersey, at his trade for four years after his arrival in America, he removed to this county, located in Viola township in 1878, where he worked at his trade and as a farm hand. He was engaged in breaking up the tough prairie sod for a period of seven years, and during this period broke approximately twelve hundred acres in Audubon and Shelby counties. From his savings he was enabled to purchase

eighty-seven acres of land at eleven dollars an acre in Jackson township, Shelby county, and here he farmed and broke prairie until 1890, when he came to Audubon county and purchased a hundred and sixty acres of land in Sharon township. Later Mr. Schouboe added eighty acres to the original tract and now owns two hundred and forty acres altogether. In 1908 he built a store in Sharon township, and calling the place Sharon engaged in the mercantile business for two years. Jens P. Schouboe has achieved a flattering success in a material way in his adopted country and he is one of the many citizens of Audubon county to whom America has spelled and rightly so the word "opportunity."

Mr. Schouboe was married in 1882 to Mary Michelsen, daughter of Chris Michelsen. They have no children. Mr. and Mrs. Schouboe are members of the Danish Lutheran church, and in politics Mr. Schouboe is a Democrat. He has been more or less active in the councils of his party, serving as road supervisor for six years, and also as township trustee, a very important office in this state. Mr. Schouboe discharged the duties of the office with credit to himself and to the people of his community. He enjoys an enviable reputation in the community where he lives and is a worthy citizen of the great state of Iowa, which has smiled upon him so benignantly.

MARTIN SORRENSSEN.

Martin Sorrensen, a farmer of Greeley township, Audubon county, Iowa, was born on July 7, 1884, in North Jylland, Denmark. He is the son of Thas and Dorothy Sorrensen, also natives of North Jylland, where the former was a carpenter by trade. Thas and Dorothy Sorrensen, who never came to the United States, were the parents of nine children, five of whom are living, all in this country. Martin and Jens are the only ones living in Audubon county. In the spring of 1903, Mr. Sorrensen's sister, Katie, came to the United States and located at Hampton, Iowa. One year later Martin Sorrensen himself came to the United States, landing at Boston, Massachusetts. He came direct to Iowa, stopping at Hampton, where his sister was living, but remained there only three months, when he went to Keokuk and there he lived for eighteen months. He then removed to North Branch, Guthrie county, where he rented land until the spring of 1914, when he rented his present farm in Greeley township, Audubon county.

About two years after his arrival in this country, on August 1, 1906,

Mr. Sorrensen was married in Guthrie county, to Mary Davidson, who was born on June 2, 1883, in North Jylland, Denmark, and who is a daughter of Martin and Jensena (Jensen) Davidson. They were farmers in their native land and still live in that country. Mrs. Sorrensen came to the United States in the fall of 1905, and, after landing at New York City, came direct to Iowa, locating in Guthrie county. Mr. and Mrs. Martin Sorrensen are the parents of four children, namely: Clara D., born on May 2, 1907; Esther J., November 1, 1908; Harry Thomas, July 3, 1910, and Frank M., April 19, 1913.

Mr. and Mrs. Sorrensen and family are all supporters of the Danish Lutheran church.

Mr. Sorrensen is engaged in general farming and stock raising and, since he is a comparatively young man and has already got a splendid start in the world, he promises to become one of Audubon county's leading farmers and citizens. He is at the present time operating between two hundred and three hundred acres of land and each year has been able to save considerable money from his earnings. Presently, Mr. Sorrensen will be able to purchase a farm of his own and by the time he has reached the prime of life, he will be thoroughly established in the agricultural life of Audubon county. Mr. Sorrensen is highly respected in the neighborhood where he lives.

MARINUS NIELSEN.

Marinus Nielsen, farmer and stockman of Douglas township, Audubon county, Iowa, was born in Denmark, December 25, 1881. Mr. Nielsen is one of a family of nine children, the others being Christiana, Marie, Sena, Nickaline, Louis, Edmund, and two who are deceased. Besides Marinus, Louis and Nickaline are the only members of the family who are now living in this country.

Mr. Nielsen's career is not greatly different from that of many Danish lads, who have left home and friends behind to seek their fortunes in a new land. He was compelled to quit school at the age of fourteen, and shortly after that he came to this country alone, remaining for two years in Hartford, Connecticut, where he had joined a sister. In 1899, at the age of eighteen years, he came to Audubon county, and here he worked on a farm for seven years, or until his marriage.

After Mr. Nielsen was married he rented a farm in Sharon township

for a year, and then purchased a hundred acres in that township. After owning and cultivating the farm for three years he sold out at considerable profit, and purchased a hundred and twenty acres of land in Douglas township, which he still owns. Altogether Mr. Nielsen has invested about three thousand dollars in various improvements made to this farm. Practically all of the farm is tillable, and practically all of it is in a very high state of cultivation. He feeds a great part of the grain he raises to stock which is kept on the farm, and sells about sixty head of hogs every year, besides a few cattle. In 1906, at the age of twenty-six, Mr. Nielsen was married to Olga Jensen, the daughter of Christian Jensen. Mr. and Mrs. Nielsen are the parents of five children, as follow: Jens, Otto, Avall, Elma and Rudolph, all of whom are living at home. Mr. Nielsen is extremely happy that the children may enjoy in this country educational advantages which are in every way superior to those which were available to him in the old country.

The Nielsen family belong to the Danish Lutheran church, and Mr. Nielsen is a Republican in politics. His value as a citizen is not so much in the part he has taken in the political and civic life of Douglas township, but in what he has done to improve his farm, and thus to increase its productivity. In fact, herein is the debt which the next generation will owe to these sturdy pioneers who have by careful methods of farming brought up the raw prairie to a high state of cultivation.

CHRIST J. KNUDSEN.

Christ J. Knudsen, a well-known farmer and stock raiser of Douglas township, Audubon county, Iowa, and the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of fine farming land which is highly improved, was born on June 4, 1871, in Denmark. He is the son of Jens J. and Alice (Nelson) Knudsen. Jens and Alice Knudsen were both born in Denmark and were also married in their native land. He owned a small farm and was engaged in farming there until 1898, when he came to the United States. He lived with his son in Iowa for two years and then returned to Denmark, where, after living for a short time, he returned to the country and lived with his son, Christ J., until his death, in 1913. He was the father of four children: Nels J., Jens, Soren and Christ J. Soren lives in Denmark, Nels J. lives with Christ J. and Jens lives in Clarinda.

Christ J. Knudsen was educated in the schools of Denmark but quit school at the age of fourteen and worked on the farm for three years, coming to America at the age of eighteen. The voyage was made on one of the ships of the Hamburg line. Mr. Knudsen landed in New York and came direct to Iowa, where he worked on a farm near Walnut for two years. He then rented a farm north of Walnut, comprising one hundred and twenty acres and lived there for one year, after which he rented land for three years. After this he went to Harlan, Iowa, and rented a farm there for two years. He also rented a farm near Erling for two years, coming finally to Audubon county, where he settled in Douglas township and purchased eighty acres of land. Keeping this tract for two years, he traded it for two hundred and forty acres in section 27, of Douglas township. Five years afterwards he purchased eighty acres more.

Mr. Knudsen was married on February 26, 1896, to Laura Sorensen, the daughter of Jens Jensen, a native of Denmark, who was married in Jacksonville, Shelby county, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Knudsen have had six children: Edward, Houger, Soren, Alfred, Martin and Dagny. Soren is deceased, having died in 1909, at the age of seven years. The remainder of the family are at home and two of the children are attending school.

Mr. Knudsen's principal crops are corn and small grains. His corn averages about fifty bushels to the acre, his oats about thirty-five and his wheat about twenty-four bushels. Every acre of his three hundred and twenty acres has been under cultivation. Mr. Knudsen feeds all the grain he raises to his stock and sells two or three carloads of cattle each year and about one hundred and thirty head of hogs. He takes great pride in a pure-bred Percheron horse which he owns. Altogether it is fair to say that ten thousand dollars have been invested in improvements upon the farm.

A Republican in politics, Christ J. Knudsen has served as township trustee for five years and as assessor for three years. The Knudsen family belongs to the Danish Lutheran church and Mr. Knudsen is a trustee of this church.

Mr. Knudsen deserves to rank as one of the enterprising and successful farmers of Douglas township. Few men are better known or more highly respected than he. Scarcely in the prime of life, he has attained a success in agriculture which comes to few men of his age. He is, nevertheless, a man of modest and unassuming manners, wholly unaffected by his success, cordial with his neighbors and friendly in all of the relations of life.

JOEL L. SWINEHART.

Joel L. Swinehart, a well-known farmer of Audubon township, was born on July 18, 1864, in Lagrange county, Indiana, the son of Samuel and Eliza (Sigler) Swinehart, natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio respectively, the latter having been born in Wood county. After their marriage in Lagrange county, Indiana, they lived until 1869 in that state, when they removed to Benton county, Iowa, and in 1874 they again removed to Guthrie, where the mother died in 1876. The father spent the latter part of his life with his son, Joel L., the subject of this sketch, passing away at his home in October, 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Swinehart had six children, as follow: Charles, Mrs. Ella Matthews, Randal, Mrs. Savilla Ewing, Joel L. and Mrs. Minnie Spangler.

Joel L. Swinehart lived at home until his mother's death, at which time he was only eleven years old, and after her death he started out in life for himself, working for his board during the winter and attending school at the same time. After attending school until he was nineteen years old, he began working continuously at farm work, at which he was engaged until 1886, when he went to California and was engaged as a logger in the soft pine forests of that state. After being in California two years, in the fall of 1887, he returned to Guthrie county, where he worked until 1891, when he purchased eighty acres of land in section 36, of Audubon township. At the time it had only a small sixteen by twenty-two foot house, and a board stable, and there were only fifty acres under cultivation. In 1909 Mr. Swinehart built his present ten-room home, which is entirely and thoroughly modern. Most of the other buildings are practically new, the barn having been built in 1901.

On March 29, 1891, Mr. Swinehart was married in Adair county to Clarissa McClaran, who was born on October 5, 1874, in Pennsylvania, and who is the daughter of John and Rebecca (Hart) McClaran, natives of Vermont and Mercer county, Pennsylvania, respectively.

In 1878 the McClaran family came west and settled in the south edge of Guthrie county, Iowa, and later removed to Oklahoma, where the mother died in July, 1906. The father died at Coffeetown, Kansas, October 31, 1914. They had eight children, seven of whom are living: Benjamin, Ralph, Mrs. Swinehart, Mrs. Grace Lalley, William, Mrs. Ruth Stoner and John.

Mr. and Mrs. Joel L. Swinehart have had eight children, seven of whom are living. The children in the order of their birth are as follow: Charles,

born on December 29, 1893; Grace, August 10, 1895; Lenora, February 17, 1897; Joel, February 15, 1901, died February 20th of the same year; Helen, August 20, 1902; Theodore, December 5, 1904; Dorothy, October 13, 1906, and Lynn, July 18, 1911. All the children are living at home, though Grace and Lenora have attended high school at Adair.

Mr. Swinehart was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, but dropped out of the lodge in 1907. A Republican in politics he has served as township trustee and clerk and also as school director, and was president of the board of trustees for two years, all of which positions he discharged with the entire satisfaction of the people of the township. Though not members of any church, Mr. and Mrs. Swinehart and family are loyal and faithful supporters of the Methodist Episcopal.

Among the men who deserve to be counted as successful farmers in this section, Joel L. Swinehart, of Audubon township, is one. He has made a conspicuous success in the business of farming, a fact which is generally recognized by his neighbors and friends. Popular in the county and township where he lives, Mr. Swinehart has behind him an honorable and upright career, and one of which he can be truly proud.

REV. PETER RASMUSSEN.

The Rev. Peter Rasmussen, who is a native of the little kingdom of Denmark, in his native land, was a farm hand. In fact, he worked at this occupation until he was twenty-three years of age, when he decided to come to America.

After Mr. Rasmussen's arrival in America, he decided to prepare himself for the ministry, and began his preparation for this profession at the Trinity Seminary, at Blair, Nebraska, which is under the control of the United Danish Evangelical Lutheran church of America. He was a student at this institution for six years, after which he was ordained to the ministry in the Danish Lutheran church. His first pastorate was in the parish at Fresno, California, where he remained for nine years. He then served as the pastor of the parish at Eugene, Oregon, for five years. On April 1, 1913, he came to Exira, Iowa, and has been in charge of the religious work of the Danish Lutheran church of Exira for more than two years.

Peter Rasmussen was born on May 5, 1865, in Denmark. His father and mother were Rasmus and Hannah (Olsen) Anderson, both natives of

Denmark. Rasmus Anderson was a farm hand in his native country, and spent all his life there. He died more than a quarter of a century ago, in 1876. His wife, however, survived him many years, and died in 1906. Rasmus Anderson was a soldier in the War of 1848-50 between Denmark and Germany and served during the entire period of this great war. Peter Rasmussen was one of six children born to his parents, the others being Christina, Carrie, Anton, Nels and Ole, all of whom are still living in Denmark, Peter being the only one of the family who came to America.

Peter Rasmussen received his early education in the schools of Denmark, and after leaving school worked as a farm hand in his native land until his twenty-third year, when he came to this country.

On June 23, 1894, shortly before he was thirty years of age and several years after his arrival in America, Peter Rasmussen was married to Mary Bartelsen, the daughter of Lars Bartelsen, and to this union nine children have been born, namely: Lawrence, Lona, Minnie, John, Martha, William, Carl, Marie, Helen, all living at home with their parents.

Rev. Peter Rasmussen is identified politically with the Republican party, but has never participated actively in politics, his preaching and pastoral duties having demanded most of his time and attention. He is not only a fluent and powerful speaker, but he has successfully discharged his duties as the pastor of an important parish, and is popular among the congregation of the Danish-Lutheran churches at Exira, Hamlin and Atlantic.

EDWIN F. JOHNSON.

Poets often tell the truth and the old song which contains the refrain, "The farmer feeds them all," states a very fundamental and economic truth. Without the farmer the rest of the populace would starve to death within a week despite the large amount of food kept in storage. Every occupation might be done away with but farming and people could live, but a total cessation of farming for a short time would actually depopulate the whole world. A man can exist without banks, courts, schools, colleges, factories, mines, and mills, but deprive him of the products of the soil as produced by the farmer and he cannot live. The farmers of a community practically sustain the people dependent upon other professions. Without the farmer the banker would close his doors, the merchant cease business, the manufacturer shut down his factory and the railroads suspend operations. He is an important

factor in the world's economic adjustment. The successful individual farmer is a man to be honored and admired and he occupies a substantial place in the community.

Among the honored and successful men of Audubon county, one who has achieved distinction in the agricultural profession and has been highly honored by the people with a high official position is Edwin F. Johnson, county supervisor of Audubon.

Edwin F. Johnson was born on September 7, 1865, at Morris, Illinois, son of John C. and Christina (Thompson) Johnson, natives of Norway and Sweden, respectively. John G. Johnson was born in 1836 and died in 1904. He migrated to America from the land of his birth in 1852 and first located in Chicago. From Chicago he went to Morris, Illinois. He rented land near there until 1882 and then came west to Audubon county. Here he purchased a farm in Sharon township. He prospered and in his old age retired to Audubon. He was the owner of a well-improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres. The children of John G. Johnson now living are: John P., of Greenfield, Iowa; Edwin F., with whom this review is directly concerned; Mrs. Mary Weldy, residing in Douglas township, Audubon county; Samuel R., a farmer in Melville township, and Elmer C., of Atlantic, Iowa.

Edwin F. Johnson was educated in the district schools of Illinois and came to Audubon county with his parents when seventeen years of age. He assisted his father in operating the home farm until he attained his majority. He then rented a farm in Viola township, saved his money for a few years, and then invested in eighty acres of prairie land in Sharon township at a cost of twelve dollars and fifty cents an acre. This farm had no improvements whatever when Mr. Johnson purchased it. He placed all improvements on the farm as he was able and brought the land to a high state of cultivation. When he began for himself he had very little money and was the owner of one horse. He was not able to erect a home until about five years after he began farming, but a slow beginning makes a good ending and prosperity has smiled upon this energetic citizen. He is the owner of five hundred and forty acres of fine land in Audubon county and has one thousand three hundred acres of land in South Dakota. Mr. Johnson has a fine town house in Audubon, where he removed in 1910.

Mr. Johnson was married in 1891, to Bertha Boyd, of Audubon county, daughter of Mahlon Boyd. To this union have been born two children, namely: Bertha E. and Edwin B.

Mr. Johnson is a Republican in politics and has taken an active part in

political affairs, being one of the leaders of his party in Audubon county. He was elected to the important office of county supervisor in the fall of 1910 and re-elected in 1912 for a second term. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a prominent member of the local Masonic fraternity and is high in the ancient rites of this order. He belongs to the Audubon chapter and commandery, is a member of Za-Ga-Zig temple of Mystic Shriners at Des Moines, and is a member of the Scottish Rite consistory located at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, being a Mason of the thirty-second degree.

Mr. Johnson's sterling worth as a citizen and business man was recognized by the people when they elected him to the office of county supervisor and during the time he has been in the office he has discharged his duties to the entire satisfaction of the people of his county. He is a quiet, unassuming man, of genial disposition, firm in his convictions and one who has always looked out for the welfare of his county.

HERMAN PAUL.

The late Herman Paul, who was a native of West Posen, Germany, and whose parents died when he was a small child, was born on May 2, 1850. After living among strangers until 1872 or 1873, he came to the United States and locating in Illinois, worked near Bloomington for seven or eight years, when he came to the state of Iowa, and located in Cass county.

Purchasing eighty acres of land in section 36, of Audubon township, in 1882, he lived alone on the farm for two years, until March 13, 1884, when he was united in marriage to Elise Schmidt, who was born on January 12, 1862, in Thuring, a part of Saxony, Germany, and who was the daughter of Nick and Elizabeth (Kirchner) Schmidt. The Schmidt family came to America in May, 1882, and after arriving in New York City, came direct to Iowa, locating in Cass county, where the parents of Mrs. Paul lived until their death.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul had eight children, seven of whom are living. Of these children, Ida, who was born December 24, 1884, married Frank Barber, an auctioneer of Cass county, and they have three children, Belle, Paul and Pearl (twins). Anna was born on July 19, 1886, and died March 11, 1899; Martha, May 27, 1887, married William Schlee; Albert, April 25, 1890, married Bertha Holland; William, May 5, 1891, lives at home; Mary, July 8,

1893, married George Vokt; Walter, April 21, 1899, and Eliza, January 17, 1903, also live at home.

Before Mr. Paul's death, in an accident, on October 16, 1906, he had purchased eighty acres additional land in Audubon county and a hundred and sixty acres in Cass county. During his life the late Herman Paul applied himself diligently to farming and accumulated a comfortable competence in farming land. Since his death in 1906 Mrs. Paul has ably managed the farm property which he left.

An active member of the German Lutheran church during his life, the late Herman Paul was a Republican in politics, although he never held any office. Primarily he was a man who was devoted to his home and to his family, and cared little about the outside interests of life. He is remembered as a man of honorable and humane impulses, and one who, loving his wife and children dearly, made every possible preparation for their comfort and happiness. Respected and admired in the neighborhood where he lived, he left at the time of his death besides his widow and children a large number of friends to mourn his loss in this community.

GEORGE J. PARKINSON.

The Parkinson family is of English descent, the parents of George J. Parkinson, George, Sr., and Anna (Annable) Parkinson, having been natives of Hull, Lincolnshire, and Liverpool, England, respectively. George J. Parkinson, the subject of this sketch, was born in 1861, in Davenport, Iowa. His parents were born in England and came to the United States at different times, the father when twenty-one years old and the mother when eight years old. The latter came with her parents, and the former came alone, having been the only member of the family ever to come to the United States.

After locating in Illinois, George Parkinson, Sr., moved from one place to another until he finally obtained work in the shops of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad, in Davenport, Iowa. After working for this company for some time, he came on west to Audubon county, where he purchased a hundred and sixty acres of land, located in section 25, in Audubon township. This was many years ago when land was very cheap and he obtained a hundred and sixty acres for five dollars an acre. Beginning in 1876 with a farm that already had some timber on it, he continued to improve the farm in various ways, and here he lived until 1902, when he and his wife removed to Adair. They had nine children, of whom George J. was the eldest.

George J. Parkinson attended the school in Davenport, and after completing the course of instruction there, lived at home until his marriage. After his marriage he rented his uncle's farm for ten years, and in 1896 had been able to save enough with which to purchase a hundred and twenty acres in section 23, of Audubon township. Here he lived for six years, until his parents retired and moved to town, when he moved to the home place. Of all the children born to his parents he is the only farmer, all the other sons being blacksmiths.

On February 8, 1886, Mr. Parkinson was married in Audubon county to Christina Bain, who was born on August 24, 1869, in Cayuga county, New York, the daughter of George and Elizabeth (Wey) Bain.

George and Elizabeth (Wey) Bain were natives of Scotland and England, respectively, the former having been born near Edinburgh, and the latter having been born in Lincolnshire. Mrs. Bain was nine years old when she was brought to the United States by her parents. Her husband was sixteen years old at the time he came to America. Although he came alone, he had grandparents living in New York state. Eventually, Mr. and Mrs. Bain came west, locating near Genoa on the Pawnee reservation in Cass county, Nebraska, in 1879. After living here only six or eight months, and after the destruction of their crops, they moved to Audubon county, where they purchased eighty acres of land in Audubon township. Later they purchased two hundred acres more and here they lived until 1909, when they retired and moved to Menlo, Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. Parkinson have been the parents of twelve children, as follow: Edna, born on June 30, 1888, married Clarence Johnson, and they have two children, Lucy and Grace; George, February 26, 1890; Roy, January 5, 1892; Bert, January 23, 1894; Anna, March 4, 1896; Grace, June 13, 1898; Paul, June 24, 1900; Clara, October 17, 1902; Mildred, December 6, 1904; Rachel, May 11, 1906; Robert, July 24, 1909, and Philip, December 12, 1911. Philip, by the way, who was the twelfth child, was born on the twelfth day of the twelfth month of the year.

Mr. Parkinson is engaged in general farming and stock raising. He feeds about seventy-five head of cattle every year and about a hundred head of hogs. He is comfortably situated and has been able to make farming pay him handsome returns. A Democrat in politics, the only office he has ever held is that of school director. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Adair. Mr. Parkinson's parents were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mrs. Parkinson's parents were members of the Christian church. They, however, do not belong to any church, but they are active in the work of the Oak Ridge Sunday school, of Audubon township.

By his enterprising methods as a farmer, his fair and square dealings with all his relations with his neighbors, Mr. Parkinson has won the respect and esteem of the people of Audubon township, most of whom he knows personally, and most of whom he can count as his friends. He is a man of strictly moral habits, devoted to his home, his family and to his farm.

GEORGE M. VANAERNAM.

George Vanaernam, an old-time citizen of Audubon township, Audubon county, Iowa, and one of the prominent farmers of this section was born on March 25, 1846, in Lewis county, New York, the son of Anthony and Susan (Wardwell) Vanaernam, both of whom were born in that state, the father in Herkimer county, and the mother in Lewis county. Anthony Vanaernam's father was a native of Germany. In 1855 the Vanaernam family moved to Hancock county, Illinois, where they lived and died.

In August, 1861, Anthony Vanaernam enlisted in the First Iowa Cavalry, and served mostly in Missouri and Arkansas, in the guerilla warfare of that section. In one of the battles he was shot through the arm and subsequently was discharged for disability in the latter part of the year of 1863. Anthony and Susan (Wardwell) Vanaernam never came to Audubon county. When George M. arrived in Audubon county he purchased a hundred and twenty acres of land which was entirely unimproved, and this made it necessary for him to build a shanty at once. The cattle and other stock roamed at large over the prairie. After many vicissitudes and many trials, Mr. and Mrs. Vanaernam became the owners of two hundred and fifteen acres of land.

George M. Vanaernam was married on October 12, 1868, in Hancock county, Illinois, to Mary Baker, who was born in Des Moines county, Iowa, and who is the daughter of Henry and Mary Baker, natives of Westfall, Germany, who were married in that country and who came to the United States about 1848. They settled in Missouri after coming to this country and in 1851 removed to Des Moines county, Iowa. Later they moved to Henderson county, Illinois, and still later to Hancock county, Illinois, coming to Audubon county, Iowa, in 1869, arriving here on November 8 of that year.

Mr. and Mrs. Vanaernam had three children, only two of whom are living; Charles, born on March 24, 1870, died when nine years old of pneumonia; Edward, March 29, 1877, married Louisa Bauers, and they have one child; Clara, September 21, 1888, married Chris Reisgard.

A Republican in politics, Mr. Vanaernam has never been active and has never been a candidate for office. He is engaged in general farming and stock raising.

Among the first families to settle in Audubon township, the Vanaernams have long been conspicuous in the agricultural life of this community. Mr. Vanaernam has been an upright citizen and an honorable man, and enjoys in a large measure the confidence and esteem of all the people with whom he has come in contact. He is a worthy citizen of this county and has done much to promote its growth and prosperity.

HANS NELSEN.

Hans Nelsen, a farmer and stock raiser of Douglas township, Audubon county, Iowa, who owns a highly productive farm of eighty acres in this township, was born in Denmark, February 10, 1850, the son of Nels and Carstin (Mathsen) Nelsen, the former of whom was a farmer and who owned about sixty acres of land in Denmark. Neither the father nor the mother ever came to this country. Of their six children, three are living in America, two in Denmark and one died in the native land. Mr. Nelsen has one brother living in Shelby county, Iowa, and another living in Minnesota.

Hans Nelsen quit school at the age of fourteen and worked on the farm for his father until he reached his majority. Upon coming of age, he joined the army and served the period of his enlistment, after which he came to America. At this time he was thirty-four years of age. Coming to this country on a German ship and landing in New York City, he came from New York to Iowa, and settled in Shelby county, where he worked as a ditcher for about two years. Mr. Nelsen then rented a farm in Shelby county, consisting of forty acres, and farmed until 1894, when he came to Audubon county, at which time he purchased eighty acres of land in section 22, of Douglas township, and here he still lives. His principal crops are corn and small grain. He feeds almost all the grain he raises to his stock, and markets about thirty-five head of hogs every year. He has invested about four thousand dollars in various kinds of improvements on the farm.

Mr. Nelsen was married on November 13, 1878, to Bodel Marie Mathisen, a native of Denmark. No children have been born to this marriage.

Hans Nelsen is a well-known citizen of this township and a devoted

member of the Danish Lutheran church. For a number of years he served as a janitor of the church. In politics he is identified with the Republican party.

W. W. WESTON.

Among the strong and influential citizens of Audubon county, Iowa, the records of whose lives have become an essential part of the history of this section, W. W. Weston, a retired farmer of Audubon, Iowa, and proprietor of the "Hillside Stock Farm" under the firm name of W. W. Weston & Sons, breeders of Clydesdale horses and big type Poland China hogs, occupies a prominent place. For many years, he has exerted a beneficial influence on the locality where he resides. His chief characteristics are keenness of perception, a tireless energy, honesty of purpose and motive and every-day common sense, which have enabled him not only to advance his interests but also to largely contribute to the moral and material advancement of the community.

W. W. Weston was born on April 11, 1853, in Iowa county, Wisconsin. He is the son of Charles S. and Hannah (Avenell) Weston, natives of England, both of whom came to America with their parents and who were married at Linden, Iowa county, Wisconsin. Charles S. Weston died in 1906 and his wife is still living in Dodgeville, Wisconsin. W. W. Weston is one of seven children born to his parents.

W. W. Weston was educated in the public schools of Wisconsin. In 1877 he came to Audubon county and first located in Viola township. He purchased his first land in 1880 and soon afterwards married. He improved the farm which consisted largely of prairie land. Mr. Weston bought one hundred acres at nine dollars an acre. He added to this farm until he has two hundred and eighty acres. He began breeding Clydesdale horses in 1900 and has been very successful, and now has twenty head of these useful animals. "Dorothy Vernon," which Mr. Weston's son, A. W., owns, is the champion of the state, having been awarded first premium at the Des Moines state fair in 1910. He took second, third and sixth in Futurity class in 1913. He has taken sweepstakes on stallions and fillies over all breeds in the county fair during 1913 and 1914. Mr. Weston and sons raise Poland China hogs. He began in 1914 and now has one hundred and twenty-five head of thoroughbreds.

W. W. Weston was first married on October 13, 1880, to Josephine



W. W. WESTON

Beason, a native of Illinois, who came to Audubon county with her parents. She was born in 1856 and died in February, 1907. By this marriage eleven children were born, Nellie, who died at the age of sixteen; Edith, who married Rev. N. J. Weiland, of Lansing, Iowa, who is a minister in the Evangelical church; Mae, who is the wife of Oscar O. J. Finch, of Goshen, Utah; Minnie K., the wife of Coyle C. Edwards, of Lake City, California; Albert W., who lives on the home farm; Charles, deceased; Frank, who lives on the home farm; Nina R., the wife of Felix Patefeld, of Fenwood, Wisconsin; Louis, who lives on the home farm; Fred, deceased; and Margaret L., who is at home.

Mr. Weston was married the second time, on July 28, 1909, to Ella F. Fowler, the daughter of Caleb and Harriet Fowler, natives of New York. They settled in Illinois and are now both deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Weston and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and active in the affairs of this denomination. Mr. Weston is a Republican and has held various township offices and has filled all of them with credit to himself and to the people who elected him. He is a well-known citizen, a successful farmer and stock breeder and possesses to an unaccustomed degree the confidence of his neighbors and friends.

FRANK DAVIS.

Frank Davis, the owner of a rich and well-tilled farm of two hundred and eighty acres in Audubon township, which he purchased mostly in 1906 and for which he paid sixty dollars an acre, was born on March 31, 1870, in Henry county, Illinois, the son of William E. and Martha (Davis) Davis, both natives of Wales. The former came to America with his parents, David and Lucy Davis, when five years old. David and Lucy Davis first settled in Pennsylvania near Minersville, where they lived for several years and where he was a coal miner for more than forty years. He followed his occupation, however, in different parts of the country. The father of Frank Davis was married twice as was his mother also. Each had one child by their former marriages. David, the father's son by his first wife, lives near St. Louis, and Mrs. Elizabeth Hill, the mother's child by her first husband, lives near Exira. Frank Davis was one of four children, three of whom, William, Frank and Mrs. Leona Cline, are living in Audubon county. The other child is deceased.

About 1879, the family came to Audubon county and purchased land from the Rock Island Railroad Company, paying five dollars an acre for the first eighty-acre tract. This farm was subsequently increased and as new land was added the price per acre increased, sixty-five dollars an acre, having been paid for the last purchase.

Frank Davis lived at home until about twenty-one years old and after leaving school rented land from his father for ten years. He had meager opportunities for an education and had been permitted to attend school but very little. In 1898 he purchased eighty acres of land just north of Exira, paying thirty dollars an acre for it and after owning it for a few years he sold it for seventy-five dollars an acre. In September, 1906, he purchased two hundred acres of land in sections 23 and 24, of Audubon township and paid sixty dollars an acre for this tract. Mr. Davis has built practically all of the buildings now standing on the farm and erected practically all of the fences. Approximately seven thousand dollars has been invested in improvements. It is one of the best farms in Audubon township. Since 1906 Mr. Davis has added eighty acres more to the farm and now owns two hundred and eighty acres in all.

When twenty-three years old, on June 11, 1893, Mr. Davis was married in Audubon county to Jennie Struthers, the daughter of James and Lucy Struthers, the former of whom died when Mrs. Davis was a small girl. After her father's death, she lived with her uncle, Enos Struthers.

One child born to this union died in infancy and after the death of the mother, on October 9, 1894, Mr. Davis was married, secondly, on April 26, 1899, to Eva Kritch, who was born in Pulaski county, Indiana, and who is the daughter of Jacob and Nancy (Nichols) Kritch, natives of Germany and Indiana respectively. Both are now living in Indiana, where they are farmers. Of their four children, only two, Henry and Mrs. Davis, are now living. By his second marriage, Mr. Davis has had five children, four of whom are living: Martha, born on September 10, 1900; Bennie, December 8, 1903, died January 25, 1914; Dannie, November 4, 1905; William, March 29, 1906; and Edith, July 20, 1909. All of these children live at home with their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis have a delightful family and they are not only intelligent farmers but highly esteemed citizens of this community. The Davis family is very popular in Audubon township.

Although Mr. Davis is identified nominally with the Republican party, he is not what may be called a hide-bound partisan, but votes for men and measures rather than for parties and party emblems. He has never held any

political office. The Davis family are members of the Methodist church at Adair.

Not only has Frank Davis been a successful farmer, but he has taken a most commendable interest in public affairs in Audubon township and, having inherited capacity for leadership from his father, and cultivated it in relation with his neighbors, he is today regarded as one of the leading citizens of the township.

C. J. GRANT.

C. J. Grant, who came to America when a lad of twelve years with his grandparents, and who is now the proud owner of two hundred acres of land in Audubon township, Audubon county, Iowa, was born October, 15, 1856, in Holstein, Germany, the son of Claus and Margaretha (Dalmyer) Grant, also natives of Holstein, where the former was a day laborer. They had four children, John, C. J., Marguerite and Anna.

C. J. Grant attended school in Holstein, Germany, until eleven years old, and in the spring of 1868, at the age of eleven he came to the United States with his grandparents, Jacob and Lena (Warner) Dalmeyer, the subject of this sketch having made his home with his grandparents from the time he was a small child. They landed at New York City, and came direct to Iowa, locating in Jackson county, where they lived for eleven years, until C. J. was twenty-two years old, when he left his grandparents and began life for himself. Going to Clinton county, Iowa, he worked out as a farm hand for some two years, and then went to Henry county, Illinois, where he worked at farm work for a year. From Henry county he came to Audubon county, where shortly afterwards he purchased eighty acres of land and where he now lives in section 2, Audubon township. The land had practically no improvements at that time, only a small part of the land having been broken. Mr. Grant built a house, sixteen by twenty-four feet and lived in this for several years. He now, however, has a comfortable home of five rooms. He has a substantial barn, cribs and other buildings in keeping with the surroundings. In the meantime, however, he has added a hundred and twenty acres more to the farm. The last farm already had a splendid group of buildings. Mr. Grant is engaged in general farming and stock raising, and feeds on an average of sixty head of hogs and several head of cattle every year.

A Republican in politics, Mr. Grant has never held office, nor has he ever been a candidate for office. When a lad, living in the city of Cennhysen,

Holstein, Germany, he was baptised in the Lutheran church and still holds to that faith.

Mr. Grant has never married. He takes a worthy interest in public questions, and is considered a man of a rather wide fund of information. However, he has always been interested in his farm, and having a natural liking for agriculture has made satisfactory progress in his chosen vocation. He well deserves the confidence and esteem bestowed upon him by his neighbors and by all of the citizens of Audubon township.

JENS C. ANDERSEN.

The road to success is for most of us long, steep and rocky. There are many little by-paths which seem so much easier to climb, and so much more alluring that it is difficult for all but the most resolute to continue to the end. It requires skill, constant labor, personal sacrifice and steadfastness of purpose for the average person to succeed, and at best, the attainment of prosperity, when accomplished by our own unaided efforts, is not easy. What shall we say, then, of a man who has left his home, his country and his parents to come to a foreign land, and has carved out of this new, untried environment, home, happiness, and that much coveted thing we call success? This has been the achievement of Jens C. Andersen, whose life history we are to consider.

Jens C. Anderson, one of the leading farmers of Leroy township, Audubon county, Iowa, was born on July 26, 1855, in Salling, Denmark.

His father, Andrus Andersen, was a blacksmith by trade. He and his wife, who was Doratheia Christensen, spent all of their lives in the country which was the birthplace of their children. They were members of the Lutheran church. Their eldest daughter, Christina, who is now dead, and whose given name was Mattie, married Chris Jensen of Sharon township, Audubon county, Iowa, and the children born of this marriage were Nels, Carl, Olga, Hulga, Maria, Oscar and Alfred. The second child born to Mr. and Mrs. Andersen was Jens C., the subject of this biography. Later came a sister whose name was Elsie, and two brothers, Chris, a farmer living east of this county, and Nels, also a farmer whose home is in Northern Canada.

The childhood of Jens C. Andersen was spent in Denmark, and there it was that he attended school. In the home of a blacksmith where there were five children to be cared for and educated, life became more or less of a

struggle against conditions, and it is not surprising, therefore, that at the age of twenty-six, the young man, Jens, should decide to seek his fortune in newer fields. It was in 1881 that he severed home ties, bade farewell to his parents and sailed for America. Coming West, he first located at Kimballton, Iowa, where, for a brief time, he engaged in farming. He then worked on the North Western and St. Paul railroads, which enabled him to save enough money to buy eighty acres of land in Sharon township. When this purchase was made, the land was wild, but the young man went to work with a will, and cleared and cultivated the entire tract.

Maria Karen Jensen became the wife of this young pioneer on July 6, 1889, and for nine years, they continued to live in this township. Mrs. Andersen, who was born in Logstor, Denmark, August 28, 1863, was the daughter of Hans Peter, and Karen (Madsatter) Jensen who lived and died in that country. The father was a farmer. The brothers and sisters of Mrs. Andersen were as follow: Jens, who lives in Denmark; Johann, who came to this county, in which he still lives; Regborg, living in Denmark; Johannah, who married Peter Rasmussen of this county; Hilga, of Denmark; Dagmar who became the wife of Jens Petersen, merchant and blacksmith of Sharon township.

After moving from Sharon township to Elkhorn, Iowa, Mr. and Mrs. Andersen lived in the latter place until 1890, when they returned to their farm in Sharon township where they lived for six years. In 1906, they moved to their present farm in Leroy township. He at once set to work to remodel the house and barn, and to improve the land. His possessions now consist of two hundred and forty acres of improved land comprising the tract on which he lives, and also a similar number of acres in Sharon township. Eighty-five acres are planted in corn at the home place, the average yield being forty-five bushels to the acre. Besides giving his attention to agriculture, Mr. Andersen raises mixed cattle, draft horses, and Duroc-Jersey hogs.

Another business enterprise in which Mr. Andersen has been interested is the Sharon creamery which he helped to organize, and of which he has been the treasurer for the past seven years.

Eight children have made the home life of Mr. and Mrs. Andersen happy. Carrie, the eldest daughter, died in 1890, at the age of five months. Hans, who is a farmer in Sharon township, married Matilda Steffensen, and their only child is a daughter named Irma. The third child of the family is Carrie, the wife of Peter H. Smith, a farmer of Leroy township. Dagmar lives at home. Olga is deceased. The three youngest children, Samuel, Dorcas and Theodore are living at home with their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Andersen have always made their influence felt as church workers, being members of the Danish Lutheran church. Mr. Andersen was for some time president and secretary of the Batavia church at Kimballton, and was president of the Sunday school of the church at Audubon, Iowa. He is now president of the church at Audubon, Iowa. Mrs. Andersen is a leader among women church workers, and has been president of the Ladies' Aid Society for the past seven years.

Their prominence and popularity in the neighborhood in which they live is shown by the fact that on July 6, 1914, when they held their marriage anniversary, having been married twenty-five years, there were between two and three hundred friends and relatives in attendance.

Mr. Andersen's political convictions are expressed by the platform of the Republican party.

The lives of Mr. and Mrs. Andersen have been lives of usefulness and service. While deeply interested in the rearing and education of their children, who occupy prominent places in the communities in which they live, the parents have found time to engage in social and church activities, and have given of their time and means to the causes which make for better and good citizenship. Willing to begin life in a small way, and to work and trust for results which must inevitably reward industry, these people have become well-known in their county. Few men in Audubon county are more prominent or more admired than Jens C. Andersen.

CHARLEY O. HUNT.

Of the well-known citizens of Exira, Audubon county, Iowa, mention should be made of Charley O. Hunt, who, during his life in Audubon county, has engaged in many lines of business. Born on October 26, 1876, in Exira, Audubon county, Iowa, he is the son of Isaiah and Mary E. (Cloud) Hunt, natives of Milton, Pennsylvania, and Delaware county, Iowa, respectively. During the first two years of the father's residence in Audubon county, he rented land in section 36, of Hamlin township, and then purchased eighty acres of land in section 4, of Greeley township, but never lived on the farm. In the meantime, he purchased forty acres near Exira and a few years later sold the eighty-acre farm. He has followed farming all of his life with the exception of a few years, during which he was engaged in the butcher business in Exira. Isaiah and Mary E. Hunt have had four children, of whom

Charley O. is the eldest. The others are George W., Lawrence W. and Mrs. Lillian M. Gilbert.

After completing his education in the common and high schools of Audubon county, Mr. Hunt farmed for his father for a time and later for himself. Subsequently, he engaged in the implement business for one year, purchasing the stock of John Peters at Exira and after this he returned to the farm. About this time he was married. After farming for one year, he sold out and moved to Converse county, Wyoming, where he took a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres. After living on this homestead for eight months, he relinquished it to his brother, Lawrence, and then began working for the Fremont & Elkhorn railroad in the town of Lusk. After one year, he obtained work at Alliance, Nebraska, with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, working in the round house and machine shop and remaining with this company for two years. Mr. Hunt then came back to his father's farm, his father having been, in the meantime, seriously injured. The next summer he worked for Hansen & Petersen in the implement business at Exira and in 1902 moved to Valley Junction, where he worked as a trainman for the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad until March 22, 1905, when he had the misfortune to lose an arm, an accident caused by defective bumpers and occasioned by coupling a train at Menlo, Iowa. About the first of July following, he returned to Exira, where he lived for about one year, conducting a restaurant and lunch counter, returning to his father's farm for the summer. In the spring of 1908, Mr. Hunt opened a billiard and pool room, which he owned up to the fall of 1914 when he sold a half interest to his brother, George, and took a position with H. P. Hansen in the garage as bookkeeper and collector.

Mr. Hunt was first married to Jessamine Andrews, a native of Audubon county. On February 9, 1907, Mr. Hunt was married to Grayce Campbell, a native of Exira, Audubon county, Iowa, and the daughter of Silas A. Campbell, who was a native of Wisconsin and his wife a native of Illinois. He was a soldier in the Civil War.

A Democrat in politics, Mr. Hunt has served as township committeeman of the Democratic party for a number of years and in this capacity has attended state, district and county conventions in the interest of his party. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Woodmen of the World, the Knights of the Maccabees, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Pythian Sisters, in the latter of which Mrs. Hunt is also a member. She is also a faithful and devoted member of the Christian church.

JOHN I. HENSLEY.

The biographies of enterprising men, especially of good men, are instructive as guides and incentives to others. The examples they furnish of patient purpose and steadfast integrity strongly illustrate what it is in the power of each to accomplish. Some men belong to no exclusive class in life. Apparently insurmountable obstacles have in many instances awakened their dormant faculties and served as a stimulant to carry them to ultimate renown. The instances of success in the face of adverse fate would seem almost to justify the conclusion that self-reliance with a half a chance, can accomplish any reasonable object. John I. Hensley, a prominent farmer and stockman of Exira, Iowa, has lived to good purpose and achieved a splendid success, and by a straightforward and commendable course, he has made his way to a respectable position in the world, winning the hearty admiration of the people of his community, and earning the reputation of being an enterprising and progressive man of affairs.

John I. Hensley, farmer and stockman of Exira, Iowa, was born in Polk county, Iowa, March 6, 1862. He is a son of John J. and Martha (Polkjoy) Hensley, the former a native of Ohio, who grew to manhood in the Buckeye state and was there married. After his marriage John J. Hensley removed to Polk county, Iowa, where he and his wife lived for many years. His wife died when her son, John I., was a small child. John J. Hensley was a farmer and stock buyer, and in 1870 moved to Audubon county, Iowa, where he purchased a farm, on which he lived until his death in 1892. His farm comprised two hundred and forty acres of land in this county. He and his wife were the parents of eleven children, Roy, William, Morgan, May, Dora, Fanny, Frank, Alonzo, John I., Charles, Inez, all of whom are deceased with the exception of Morgan, Frank, Charles and John I.

John I. Hensley was reared in Exira township, and received his education in the public schools of Exira, which offered very meager opportunities during his youth. After leaving school he began buying stock, and also operated a butcher shop for three years, after which he removed to the farm, where he rented land for three years. He sold out subsequently and began buying stock again, and he has been engaged in this business for thirty-five years. In the meantime he has purchased seven hundred and fifty acres of land, five hundred of which is located in Audubon county, and two hundred and fifty acres in Cass county, Iowa. Mr. Hensley feeds out about twenty carloads of hogs and cattle each year. He buys from fifteen thousand to twenty

thousand bushels of corn each year and raises from three thousand to ten thousand bushels on his own land. He buys from three hundred to five hundred carloads of cattle and hogs each year.

John I. Hensley was married on March 12, 1884, to Flora Belle Statzell, the daughter of Isaac and Abigail (Griggs) Statzell, and to this union ten children have been born: Gerald, Grace, Luther, Dena, Norman, Roy, May, Pauline, Robert and Benjamin, all of whom are living with the exception of Robert. Grace is the wife of Fred Wilkins. Luther married Muriel Koob, and they have one child, Naomi. The rest of the children are unmarried and living at home.

John I. Hensley has been a member of the school board for seventeen years, and is still serving in that capacity. At one time he served as councilman of Exira. In politics, he is identified with the Democratic party, but his private and personal affairs are too vast to permit a very active and extensive participation in politics. John I. Hensley is one of the best-known citizens of Audubon county.

JURGEN WAHLERT.

Jurgen Wahlert is a retired farmer of Exira, Iowa, who owns two hundred and forty acres of land in Greeley township. Like so many residents of Audubon county, Mr. Wahlert is a native-born German, who was inspired by the opportunities offered to the young man in America and who left his home and native land to cast his fortune with the people of a comparatively new country. Mr. Wahlert is one of those men—and there are many of them living in Audubon county—who has profited by the nominal rise in value of farm real estate within the past twenty years. Mr. Wahlert purchased his land for an inconsiderable sum compared with its present value.

Jurgen Wahlert was born in Holstein, Germany, December 3, 1842. His parents were John and Elizabeth (Storman) Wahlert, both natives of Germany. John Wahlert was a laborer and farm hand. He came to America in 1885, many years after his son, Jurgen, had established a home in this country. He located in Illinois and after remaining there for a short time, came to Audubon county, where he lived retired with his children. He and his wife had nine children, Fred, Jurgen, Tenia, deceased; John, deceased; Jacob, Katherine, Margaret, Edward and August.

Jurgen Wahlert was educated in the schools of his native land and after leaving school, he worked out as a farm hand by the month. At the age of

twenty-four years, he came to America, arriving in this country, May 28, 1866. Mr. Wahlert first located at Moline, Illinois, where he worked mostly as a laborer in a saw-mill and in the lumber yards of that city. Several years later he purchased a team, rented a farm and farmed near Moline for ten years. In 1881 he came to Audubon county and purchased a farm. He now owns two hundred and forty acres of land which he purchased from the Rock Island Railroad Company for seven dollars an acre. The land is many times as valuable at the present time. Mr. Wahlert broke the sod and built a small house and barn and engaged in general farming. During the period of his active career as a farmer, he fed from fifty to two hundred head of hogs and sold about two carloads of cattle. At one time he owned four hundred acres of land. Mr. Wahlert last purchased one hundred and sixty acres in 1894 for eighteen dollars an acre. In 1912 he sold this same farm for one hundred and twenty-five dollars an acre. Mr. Wahlert farmed practically until 1898 when he moved to Exira, and since that date he has lived retired.

Jurgen Wahlert was married on April 16, 1865, in Germany to Lena Dolmeier, the daughter of Jacob Dolmeier. Mr. and Mrs. Wahlert have had nine children, John, Bertha, Fred, August, William, George, Edward, Minnie and Gustave. John married Ida Frost and has five children, Herbert, Myrtle, Ralph, George and Emma. Bertha married Edward Heckwell and has four children, Lena, George, John and Edward. Fred married Maude Highby and has three children by this marriage, Arthur, Lena and Irene. His wife died and he later married Edna West and one child has been born to this marriage, Lucille. August married Anna Slater and has four children, Clyde, Floyd, Milo and Nettie. William married Minnie Minnerman and has four children, Harold, Lyman, Ruth and Hazel. George married Mamie Hensley but she died and he later married Minnie Gripp. Two children have been born to this marriage, James Henry and Marion. Edward married Anna Baylor and they have no children. Minnie is single and at home. Gustave married Ina Hensley and has three children, William, Gladys and Robert.

Mrs. Wahlert's parents were natives of Germany, where her father was a farm laborer. He came to America in 1870 and located in Jackson county, Iowa. Here he worked as a farm hand until his death. He and his wife were the parents of two children, who are now living, Mrs. Wahlert and Anna, who is living at Clinton, Iowa.

Jurgen Wahlert is a member of the German Lutheran church. He is a Democrat in politics and has served as school director and as road supervisor. Naturally, he is a well-known citizen of Audubon county and from

any standpoint is entitled to the confidence and esteem of his neighbors and fellow townsmen, a confidence and esteem which he enjoys to the fullest measure.

JOHN NELSON.

There is perhaps no record in this volume which more clearly demonstrates the force of industry and honesty in the affairs of life than does the life history of John Nelson, a well-known hardware and furniture dealer and also an undertaker in Exira, Iowa. Almost every civilized country on the face of the globe has sent its representatives to the Hawkeye state, and there is no more important or valuable element in the citizenship of Iowa than that which has come from the little kingdom of Denmark. John Nelson was among the native sons of Denmark who crossed the Atlantic to America, and here found excellent opportunities which he has improved, and has become a successful man, and one whose efforts have been of value to the community where he has lived.

John Nelson was born on October 14, 1868, in Denmark, the son of Andrew and Mary (Michelson) Nelson, both natives of Denmark. The former was a farmer and followed that occupation in his native land until his death in 1896. His wife had died twelve years previously in 1884. He served in the Danish-Prussian War. He and his wife were the parents of five children, Nels, John, Meta, Anna and Maren, and all are still living in Denmark except John.

John Nelson received his education in the schools of his native land, and after leaving school he took up the trade of buttermaking, which he followed for twelve years in Denmark. During that time he served eleven months in the Danish army, and after his discharge from the military service, he came to America in 1896, and located at Edwards, Colorado, where he secured a position as a buttermaker in a creamery, remaining there for one year, after which he came to Audubon county, Iowa, and took charge of the creamery at West Hamlin, Iowa, where he remained for five years, and then purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres. He operated this farm for one year and then engaged in business at Exira, Iowa, with Schrauger & Johnson Furniture Company. Mr. Nelson was with this firm for a year and a half, and then engaged in business for himself, and now carries the largest stock of furniture and hardware in Exira. He started this business in July, 1905, with a complete line of hardware, furniture and farm implements. During

the fall of 1914 he sold out his stock of implements. John Nelson is well known in this section of the county as one of its most successful and substantial business men. He very thoroughly deserves his large trade and the liberal patronage of the people of Audubon county from the fact that he has been scrupulously honest in all of his dealings with the public.

John Nelson was married 1897 to Anna Marie Green, the daughter of Peter Green, and to this union six children have been born, Helene, Margaretha, Oscar, Adolph, Fred and Marga. Margaretha died at the age of eleven years, and Marga died when young.

Religiously, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson are members of the Danish Lutheran church, in which they take an active interest, and to the support of which they are liberal contributors. Mr. Nelson has long been interested in the fraternal circles of his home city. He is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons at Exira, and is also a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Danish Brotherhood, and in all of these fraternal organizations he has been prominent since he first became a member. In politics, Mr. Nelson is identified with the Democratic party, and has served as councilman of Exira, and also as a school director, and in both these positions he has discharged his duties to the entire satisfaction of the people of his community.

JORGEN H. JENSEN.

In a little town in Denmark there lived a lad whose ambition was not to be bounded by the village, nor even the country, where he had happened to be born. It is seldom that we find a lad of fifteen self-reliant enough to begin his career in the industrial world, but force of circumstances presses rather heavily on some lives, and the response is necessarily a giving up of personal wishes for the sake of mere physical existence. While we sympathize with the youth thus apparently handicapped by early disadvantages, we must at the same time, admire him, for he who can carve a destiny out of deprivation, must have mettle of an enduring quality, and it is of such material that good citizenship is made.

Jorgen H. Jensen was born in Grindsted Jylland, September 7, 1862. He was the son of Chris H. and Magdalena (Haahr) Jensen, both residents of Denmark. The elder Jensen was a farmer and died in 1876, when he was forty-eight years of age. The wife came to America in 1893 with her chil-

dren, and lived with them until her death, January 1, 1910, at the age of seventy-one. They both belonged to the Lutheran church. Six children were born in this household, being, in the order of their birth, as follow: Jens, living in Denmark; Jorgen H., the subject of this sketch; Lawrence, a farmer in Coon Rapids, Iowa; Nels, a farmer of Sharon township, this county; Knud, who died while living in Denmark, and Hans, a farmer of Alton, Minnesota.

Only a meager common school education was possible to Jorgen, owing to the early death of his father, and beginning at the tender age of fifteen years, he worked out at farming until his twenty-seventh year, helping his brothers and sisters in the care of their mother. After he and his brother, Lawrence, landed in America at New York city, they continued their journey until they arrived at Marne, Iowa, being attracted to that state by the fact that they had relatives in Shelby county. After living here for about a year, Jorgen purchased eighty acres of wild prairie land in Sharon township, and became a citizen of the United States.

On June 5, 1890, Jorgen H. Jensen was married to Hermena Hermansen, a native of Denmark, and the daughter of Chris and Anna (Jensen) Hermansen. The father, who is a carpenter, is still living, but the mother has passed away. Their children were as follow: Marion, of Denmark; Catherine, of Chicago; Hermena (Mrs. Jensen); Anna, also of Chicago; Herman, a California carpenter; Jens, a carpenter of Audubon, and Jensena, who still lives in Denmark.

Selling out his property in Sharon township in 1901, Mr. Jensen bought two hundred and eighty acres of land in Douglas township, and lived here until 1910. Again disposing of one hundred and twenty acres, he bought four hundred acres in Leroy township, known as the Owen Davis place, and this farm became the family home. Many valuable improvements have been added. He sold one hundred acres to his son, Chris, who put up a good, substantial building on it. Mr. Jensen has been successful in raising Short-horn cattle, and a good quality of Aberdeen-Angus cattle of which he averages from one hundred to one hundred and twenty-five a year. Besides his cattle, Mr. Jensen sells about two hundred head of Duroc-Jersey hogs annually, and many fine Belgian horses. For his cattle and other stock it is necessary to buy feed, besides the one hundred acres of corn which he raises. Having always been fond of farm work and farm life, he has never attempted activities of any other kind.

Out of his busy life, Mr. Jensen has managed to spare the time for civic duties, for he was at one time school director of Douglas township. His own

children have all been educated in the local schools. Chris, the eldest son, attended the Danish school at Blair, Nebraska. He married Anna Hansen and now lives in Leroy township. The second child is Annie, who married Soren N. Smith, of Douglas township, and they have two children, Herman and Lucile. Other children were Ida, Ejner, Smil, Esther, Martha, Sarah and Dina. Besides these, there were two children who died while young, Nick and Nick, Jr.

Mr. Jensen has always adhered to the principles of the Republican party. He and his wife are members of the Lutheran church. Although the wife has seemed to occupy an inconspicuous place in this record, she has had much to do with the success of her husband's enterprises and her children's education. In fact she has seconded their efforts to such an extent that through her devotion, their work has been lightened, and their achievements have been increased. Willing to share the trials and cares of the pioneer's life, she was content if she could but minister to the needs of her family, and when success came, she could share that, too, in a quiet, womanly way, happy in the thought that it had come through their own efforts. No family is better known or more respected in the vicinity in which they live, and the esteem in which they are held is richly merited.

MAHLON BOYD.

The life of the man we are now to consider is another illustration of the truth that our ultimate destiny, as far as this world's affairs are concerned, is determined, not so much by what we have, as by what we are. To some natures, difficulty becomes the strongest kind of incentive, and such men, instead of swimming with the tide of adversity, a process which leads to defeat, oppose untoward conditions so strongly that victory is the only possible outcome. The lives of these, when they are also characterized by integrity, as in the present case, become an inspiration to others in the struggle for existence, for they place the emphasis upon self-reliance, and thus tend to strengthen both will-power and faith. In these days of comparatively small families, it is perhaps natural for us to wonder how a boy who was one of a brood of twelve, could overcome the limitations of his early environment to such an extent as to attain prominence by the time he had reached middle life. When Mahlon Boyd was a boy, fortunes were neither easily nor quickly made, and his father's only wealth was what he could wrest from the soil. Although it is possible here only to outline the facts of his life, these are sufficient to elicit our respect and admiration.

Mahlon Boyd was born on December 21, 1850, in Muskingum county, Ohio, being the son of S. W. and Zylphia (Bates) Boyd. The father's birth-place was the same county, while his wife came from Harrison county, Ohio. S. W. Boyd was born on February 1, 1829. Only a common school education was possible to him, and the only occupation open in that vicinity was farming, so we find him tilling the soil of his native county until his thirty-fifth year, when he drove over to Jasper county with an ox-team, bought some uncultivated land, cleared it and made a home for himself and family, living here for many years. His wife, who was born on June 27, 1829, lived until April 20, 1905, her death following his by two years. Both died at Colfax, Iowa. As a Republican, he held public office, and both he and Mrs. Boyd were ardent members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Their children were twelve in number, namely: Lewis Henry, deceased; Mahlon, the subject of this biography; John, of Jasper county, Iowa; Charity of Colfax, Iowa; Uriah H., deceased; Harvey, who is a retired farmer of Colfax; Phoebe, now Mrs. Henry Petcock, who lives near Lake Preston, South Dakota; Charley, of Jasper county; Frank, living in South Dakota; George, of Colfax; Jess, of Newton, Iowa; and Edward, also of Colfax.

As his boys grew up, the family required their work on the farm, and this accounts for the meager education that Mahlon received. He did not, however, leave home until after his twenty-fourth year. On April 18, of the following year, he was married to Jennie Poulson, of New Athens, Ohio, daughter of James and Asenath (Spray) Poulson, the former being a native of Harrison county, Ohio, and the latter of Athens county, the same state. In 1868, Mr. and Mrs. Poulson took up life on a farm near Colfax, and lived there most of their lives. Mr. Poulson died on June 8, 1903, in Warren county, and Mrs. Poulson died on January 13, 1907, in Madison county. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Poulson were as follow: William, who was a farmer in Jasper county until 1902, when he went to Warren county, and later to Madison county, where he now lives among his relatives; John, of Altoona, Iowa; Oscar, who died on July 29, 1914; Jennie, Mrs. Boyd; Emmett, of Hanley, Iowa; May Grace, deceased; and a daughter who died in infancy.

Mahlon Boyd lived in Jasper county until 1881, when he moved to Audubon county, buying eighty acres of land in Sharon township on the ridge road in section 13. At the time of the purchase the property was all prairie land, but it soon took on a different appearance under the guiding hand of a man who understood farming and who also was fond of beauty, for he planted many trees and raised many others from seed. Mr. Boyd has always engaged in general farming, besides raising a splendid grade of draft horses, Poland China hogs and a great many fine chickens.

Mr. and Mrs. Boyd have but one daughter, Mrs. E. F. Johnson, whose husband is county supervisor of Audubon county, and is mentioned elsewhere in this volume.

Mrs. Boyd is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

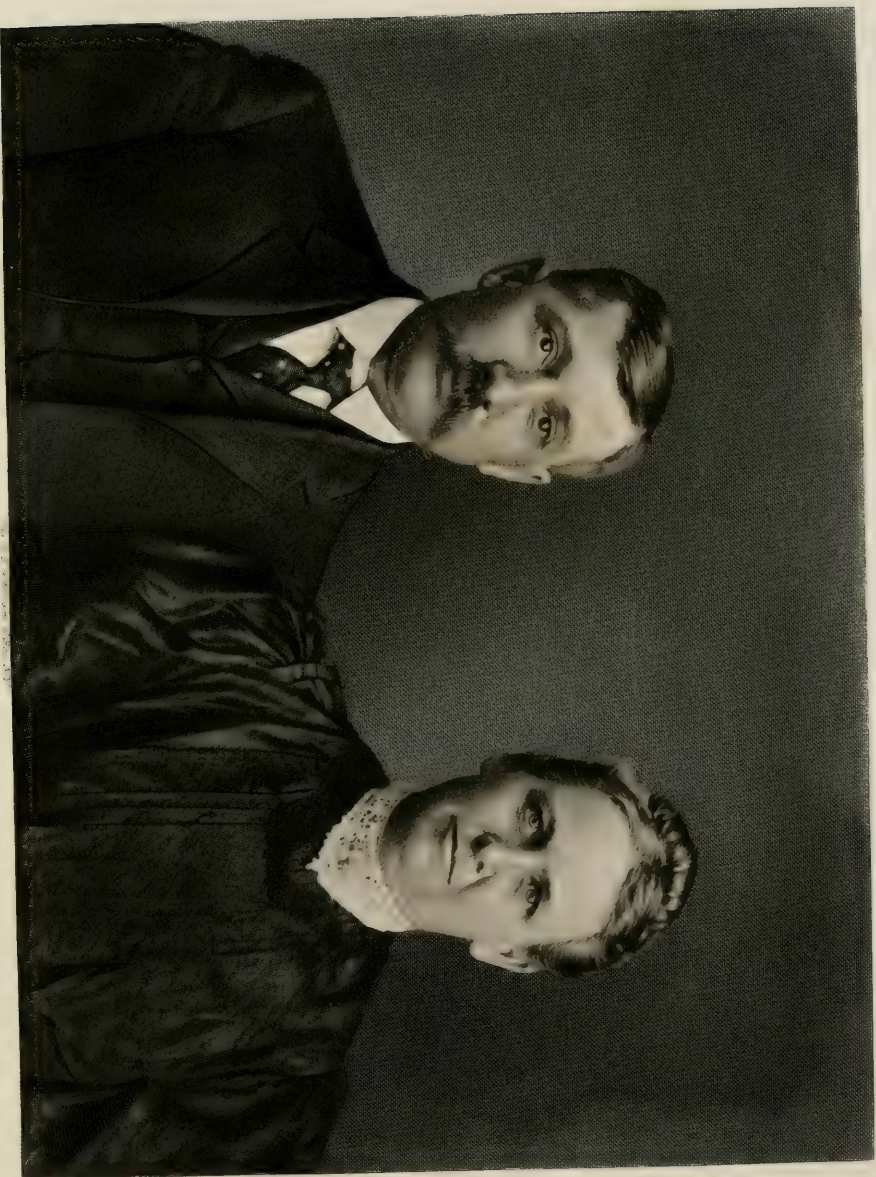
Mr. Boyd has always adhered to the principles of the Republican party. Although he gives most of his time to his farming interests, he keeps up with the world events, and always can give attention to the claims of friendship. He is an embodiment of the maxim that in order to have friends, one must be one. It is because Mr. and Mrs. Boyd are friends that they have many, and they are now not only reaping the harvest of their years of toil, but are enjoying the society of a large circle of friends who appreciate their worth. So cordial is their greeting and so hospitable their home, that even the stranger feels the warmth of their welcome. They are known and respected for many miles around their home, and their lives are characterized by integrity and devotion to duty.

HORACE WERT DUVALL.

Well-defined purpose and consecutive effort in the affairs of life will certainly result in success. In following the career of one who has attained success by his own efforts, there comes into view the intrinsic individuality which made such an accomplishment possible and thus grants an incentive and inspiration. At the same time, there is enkindled a feeling of respect and admiration. The qualities which have made Horace W. Duvall one of the prominent and successful farmers of Melville township, Audubon county, Iowa, have also brought to him the esteem of his fellow citizens. His career has been one of well-directed energy, strong determination and honorable methods.

Horace W. Duvall was born on June 22, 1857, in Washington county, Iowa. He is the son of Jefferson and Mary (Brown) Duvall, both natives of Ohio. They were married in that state and came to Washington county, Iowa, driving overland in 1849. Jefferson Duvall was a farmer during his life in Washington county, Iowa, and there died. Jefferson and Mary Duvall had ten children, William, Reeves, Horace W., A. I., Frank, Ella and Emma, twins; Kate, James, who died in infancy, and Edward.

Horace W. Duvall was educated in the common schools of Washington county, Iowa. After having completed his education, he took up farming in Washington county and remained there one year when he moved to Calhoun



H. W. Small
Eliza J. Small

county, where he lived for one year. He moved to Audubon county in 1880, locating in Greeley township. Subsequently, he moved to Cameron township and then to Melville township, where he now lives. Mr. Duvall owns five hundred and eighty acres of land in Melville township and is engaged in extensive general farming. He is one of the best known men in Melville township and has been one of its most successful farmers. He is acquainted with all of the modern aspects of farming and follows only the most progressive methods.

Horace W. Duvall was married on February 5, 1878, to Eliza Waddell, the daughter of William and Louise (DeLong) Waddell. Her parents came from Ohio to Washington county, Iowa, and lived there all of their lives.

To Mr. and Mrs. Horace W. Duvall, seven children have been born, Carrie, Ralph, Frank, Ray, Charles, Mary and Lester. All are now living except Carrie. Ralph married Blanche Farnham and has one child, Edna Fay; Frank married Bertha Griffin and has one child, Harlan Sheldon; Ray married Bessie Olson and has one child, Dwight Leverne; Charles married Elsie Blunt and has one child, Ethel Irene.

Mr. Duvall is an ardent Republican. He has served as trustee of Melville township, also as school director and road supervisor. He has discharged the duties of all of these offices in a creditable manner and has won for himself the commendation and praise of the people of this township. Religiously, Mr. and Mrs. Duvall and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

JORGEN HARTVIGSEN.

One reason for the splendid, well-kept appearance of the farms of this county is the fact that the majority of them have been cultivated by a thrifty, honest, hard-working people who came from Denmark. Whatever their work or occupation, it seems to be characterized by painstaking care. It is little wonder, then, that the region where they have chosen to make their homes is composed of land that is now productive and valuable, although it was once open prairie, marsh or timber land. He who causes an undeveloped resource to become both beautiful and useful is a benefactor to the human race, however obscure his life and activities may be. It is doubtful if anyone has done more towards the cultivation of at least a part of Sharon township than the man whose name heads this review.

Jorgen Hartvigsen, like so many of his neighbors, started life with little more than health, courage and the ability to do hard work, and like them, also, he is now enjoying the reward of his labors in the possession of a beautiful and attractive home, a family of beloved children, the respect of the community, and a wide circle of friends. He was born in Harsen, Denmark, on January 1, 1853. His parents, who lived and died in that country, were Hartvig and Marie Jorgensen, both of whom were adherents of the Lutheran faith. The former all of his life engaged in agricultural pursuits. Of their eleven children, only four are living, and of these, the subject of this sketch is the only one who migrated to America. He came to this country in 1881, when he was in his twenty-eighth year. His education was that of the average farmer boy, being what the common schools of his country had to offer, but, his wise parents supplemented this by practical training on the farm which enabled him to make his living by working by the month until he came to this country. He located first in Story county, Iowa, but later removed to Audubon county, after two and one-half years residence there he bought land in section 23 Sharon township. He has been successful enough to be able to increase his holdings until he now has two hundred and sixty acres, all improved, and a beautiful and well-equipped home. Prosperity is everywhere apparent about the country place of this ambitious farmer.

The marriage of Jorgen Hartvigsen took place in Sharon township, on July 29, 1886, to Botilda Andrea Kallisen, who came to America from Denmark in 1882. During the years that it was necessary to work hard and economize, the efforts of Mr. Hartvigsen were seconded by his good wife, and much of their present success is due to her management and thrift.

As a farmer and stock raiser, Mr. Hartvigsen has for years made a specialty of good breeds of stock, having several Belgian draft horses and from fourteen to sixteen head of milch cows, and a number of Duroc-Jersey hogs.

The nine children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hartvigsen are as follow: Mary married Christ Uhl, a farmer of this township; Clara married Peter Andersen, of Centerville, South Dakota; Palma married Charles Sorensen, of Oakfield township, this county; Viderick and Myrtle, who live at home; Solvejg and Hartvig (twins); Ediel and Viderick, the latter deceased.

Mr. Hartvigsen has served his community faithfully and well as a school director, and votes the Democratic ticket. Both he and his wife are members of the Danish Lutheran church in Kimballton, Iowa. They are interested in the affairs of their town and county, and are every ready to co-operate in movements for the betterment of the state in which they live.

AUGUST SCHRADER.

Germany has contributed much to the agricultural interests of Iowa, for from that country has come many of her sons who, in becoming successful farmers, have added much to the wealth and prestige of the country of their adoption. One cannot but admire the ambition which drove August Schrader, now a well-known retired farmer of Audubon county, when a young man still in his teens, to the United States, where he has become a prominent and much esteemed citizen.

August Schrader was born on February 20, 1850, in Pommern, Germany, son of August and Wilhelmina (Carl) Schrader, who grew up and married in the town which became the birthplace of their children. The father was a tailor, and after his death, in 1864, the wife and her five children came to America, this journey, which was to change the direction of their whole lives, taking place in 1869. Having three brothers in Poweshiek county, the widow took her little brood there, and for a while, worked for one of her brothers. In later years, she made her home with her oldest son, William, where she died in the year 1875. She brought her children up in the faith of the Lutheran church. Besides William and August, the subject of this biography, there were in the family Albert, now a retired farmer in Guernsey, Iowa; Herman, also a retired farmer living in the same town, and Henry, who was killed by lightning in Poweshiek county.

In keeping with the strict educational customs of Germany, Mr. Schrader, Sr., educated his children in the common schools, and August was kept in school as long as he could be spared from work to help support the family. When he reached his nineteenth year, his mother, who by this time had become a widow, accompanied him and her other children to this country, and then began the struggle with the realities of life. For five years, he worked out by the month.

On September 19, 1875, August Schrader was married to Henrietta Possehn, daughter of William and Wilhelmina (Limp) Possehn, of Posen, Germany. Coming to America the same year that Mrs. Schrader and her fatherless children came, this family located in Keokuk county, Iowa, where the father engaged in farming. He died in 1882, while his wife lived until 1911. The brothers and sisters of Mrs. Schrader were as follow: Augusta, who married William Neitzel, of Wilcox, Canada; Emma, the deceased wife of William Schrader, brother of the subject of this sketch; Othelia, now Mrs. Edward Border of Benton county, Iowa, and Amos whose present home is east of Audubon, Iowa. Mrs. Schrader was the first-born of this family.

After his marriage, Mr. Schrader bought ninety-two acres of farm land in Iowa county, Iowa, and lived there ten years, placing valuable improvements on it. He sold out in 1885 and removed his family to Poweshiek county. Purchasing eighty acres he resided there for seven years, when he again changed his residence, this time to Cameron township, Audubon county, where he became the owner of one hundred and sixty acres. Having been successful in his agricultural enterprises, in 1913, he was able to retire from active work, and move to Audubon, Iowa, for permanent residence. About six thousand dollars worth of improvements were put upon his farm, where besides engaging in general farming, he raised Duroc-Jersey and Poland China hogs, Shorthorn cattle and draft horses.

In political affiliation, Mr. Schrader is a Republican, and served for six years as school director, filling that position with credit to himself and to the office which he held. Both Mr. and Mrs. Schrader are members of the Lutheran church, and their lives are closely identified with the history of the county which has been their home for several years.

They have always been deeply interested in the welfare of their four children. Their eldest daughter, Emma, became the wife of Albert Fancher on December 29, 1897. Albert Fancher was born on February 20, 1875, in Keokuk county, Iowa, the son of Richard and Nancy (Marshall) Fancher, the former, a native of Washington county, the latter of Fulton county, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fancher lived in Keokuk county until 1882, they then moved to Audubon county, where they located in Cameron township. The father of Albert Fancher died in 1912, his wife having passed away eleven years previously. All of his life he was a farmer. Albert, the son, engaged in farming in Cameron township, this county, until 1914, when he built his present home in the eastern part of Audubon. He has never aspired to public office, and has given all of his time to farming and stock raising. He has been successful in raising Clydesdale horses, Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs.

The second child born to Mr. and Mrs. Schrader is Henry, also a farmer in this county, Cameron township. He married Augusta Horning. William, who died in 1902, at the age of twenty-one, married Mabel Johnson; Harry, another son, is farming on the land in Cameron township which belongs to his father. He is married to Anna Diest. Walter, the youngest, is a farmer in Viola township, this county, and married Mary Hayden.

Coming down still another generation, we learn that Mr. and Mrs. Schrader have five grandchildren, namely: Dale and Burnice, children of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schrader; William Schrader, who is named for his father;

Dorothea, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Schrader, and Ariel, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Schrader.

Success has not easily come to Mr. and Mrs. Schrader. It seldom comes that way. But having cost effort and sacrifice, they are all the more appreciative, and are ready to share its pleasures and benefits with others less fortunate. Their home is a factor for helpfulness in the community in which it is located.

GEORGE A. FOLEY.

So accustomed are we to finding power of sustained effort in the career of every man who has risen above the common level, that the necessity for such a characteristic in this type of citizen has become a truism. It is not possible here to analyze the nature of this quality so essential to success, but two elements are at once obvious and so necessary as to be indispensable. These are perseverance and directive ability. It is not power of incessant work alone that most often brings success, but rather is it this virtue combined with executive faculty, and the combination is always found in the prosperous, self-made man. No less is this true of the occupation of farming than of other occupations or professions.

The above characterization is apt in a marked degree in the consideration of the life of George A. Foley, whose fame as a farmer and stock raiser is not limited to the confines of his own county, where he lives on a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres, one and one-third miles east of Audubon on the county road.

George A. Foley was born on May 24, 1858, in Grundy county, Illinois. He is of Irish descent, his father, Simon Foley, having been born near Dublin, and his mother, Ellen Tracy, having been a native of Ireland. His parents came to America when young people and lived for a while at Boston, Massachusetts. A short time later they traveled westward by way of the great lakes as far as Chicago. Going on to Grundy county, Illinois, he bought forty acres of prairie land, at five dollars an acre, cleared and improved it, and built a home there. Later he added one hundred and twelve acres. It was here that he and his good wife, who bravely shared the hardships of pioneer days, spent the remainder of their lives, he passing away in 1871, and she in 1909, at the age of eighty-five. They were adherents of the Catholic faith. Six children were born to them, namely: John C., who came to Audubon county with his mother in 1883, and who lived with her all of his life,

having never married, and who died in 1901; Mary, the wife of Edward Thomas, of Elreno, Oklahoma; Michael Tracey, a horse dealer and farmer of Audubon; George A., the subject of this review; Sarah, who never married, and who died in 1883; and Margaret, now Mrs. William Conway of Dexter, Iowa.

Like many other ambitious youths of his time, Mr. Foley, keen and alert mentally as well as physically, was denied the education he coveted because of the limitations of the early county schools, but he attended the common schools as long as it was possible. Afterwards he lived with his parents, working on the farm.

On January 12, 1887, George A. Foley was united in marriage to Anna Conway, of New Ironton, New Jersey. She was the daughter of Patrick and Elizabeth (Black) Conway, who came from Ireland and were early settlers of Melville township, Audubon county, Iowa. They also purchased land in Guthrie county. Mr. Conway continued his interest in agriculture all of his life. Both he and his wife have passed away. Their children were as follow: John C., of Audubon; Elizabeth, who married Daniel P. Repass, of Dexter, Iowa; Ella, who married O. B. Train, of Shenandoah, Iowa; William H., a farmer of Dexter; Anna (Mrs. Foley), and Robert, a dredge operator in the South.

After his marriage, Mr. Foley was fortunate enough to buy the old Foley homestead consisting of one hundred and sixty acres in Viola township, this county, where he and his family lived until 1901, when they removed to the farm which is his present home. The house not being such as to meet the demands of the family, Mr. and Mrs. Foley built a new home, modern in all of its appointments, the house being equipped with gas, electric lights, and hot and cold water. It is not only modern, but spacious, consisting of twelve rooms. In 1907 Mr. Foley purchased eighty acres of land just east of his home place, and four years later, built on it a large block silo. He is also the owner of one-half section of improved land in Hamlin township. With an expenditure of between five and six thousand dollars on the farm where he lives it has become one of the best in that part of the state. Besides general farming Mr. Foley has been a breeder of pure bred Shorthorn cattle, Duroc-Jersey hogs, Shropshire sheep, and Percheron horses, having usually twenty-five head of the latter. It requires all of the grain he raises to provide for his stock, and besides this, he buys large quantities. His consignments of stock for market are among the largest in the county, and he is frequently called upon to give the benefit of his experience to other stock raisers.

Aside from his busy life as a farmer, Mr. Foley has found time for public duties which have made for the betterment of the community in which he has lived. For many years he was a school director and is serving at present as a trustee. He has also been the town clerk, an office in which he made many friends. Politically, he is a Democrat, having always adhered to the principles of that party. He and his wife are members of the Roman Catholic church of Audubon.

Mr. Foley is a self-made man. With what would be called today a meager education, but which was all that his boyhood time afforded, he has worked and planned his future, content to take one step at a time, and confident of the results of his efforts. He has gradually built up his business until it yields him a competency, and yet has not limited his energy or his time to purely personal interests. He has not stopped with the education of his own family, but has given his attention to the improvement of the school facilities of the county, in a sympathetic, whole-hearted way. He is a good friend, a true neighbor, and a loyal citizen. In fact, his career is an inspiration to younger men, whether they be friends or strangers, for it is an example of unselfish industry.

HENRY HANSEN.

Responsibility coming to youth has a tendency to make life a serious problem, and to rob childhood of much of its joyousness and buoyancy. But it also has its compensations, for it develops those traits of character without which there is no strength nor stability, and prepares the youth for the realities which are sure to come in later life. To the conscientious boy, bereft of a father, there come many obligations to the widowed mother, and in meeting these each day, his thoughts naturally turn away from self until gradually thoughtfulness for others becomes a habit, and habit is transformed into character. This is exemplified in the life of Henry Hansen, one of the young farmers of Sharon township, conspicuous for his integrity as well as for his achievements, who was left fatherless when a child, and carried burdens heavy for such young shoulders.

Henry Hansen was born on July 27, 1871, son of Henry and Sophia Hansen, whose home was in Soro, Denmark. Henry Hansen was a native of Holbok. Limited in early facilities for education or vocational training, he was a laborer, and passed away at the age of twenty-seven, in 1895. The young wife did what she could for her two sons, but it was necessary for

them to work at an age when she would have preferred to keep them in school. In 1889, she and her two sons came to the United States and made their home in Sharon township, in this county. Later, she was married to H. P. Petersen, of Soro, Denmark, who had been the husband of her sister.

When a lad of only twelve years, young Henry began farm work, and lived in Polk township, Shelby county, for thirteen years. By dint of industry, he was able to save enough to buy a tract of land consisting of eighty acres near Poplar. In 1907 he bought one hundred and sixty acres in Sharon township, known as the J. J. Jones place.

Henry Hansen was married on February 27, 1893, to Henrietta P. Raun, daughter of Nels P. and Restina Hansen, both of Horsens, Denmark. Coming to America in 1909, they lived in Council Bluffs, Iowa, where Mr. Hansen died the following year, at the age of seventy-four. When in Denmark, he had been engaged in the manufacture of wooden pumps. Their children, nine in number, were as follow: Hansena P. married A. S. Jensen, of Omaha, Nebraska; Maria married Chris Petersen, of Council Bluffs; Henrietta (Mrs. Hansen); Petres married A. P. Hansen, of Omaha; Metta married Hans Sorensen, of Omaha; Peter, a carpenter of the same city; Elise married C. P. Christiansen, of Omaha; Arnine married Loren Christiansen, also of Omaha; Christiana, who died at the age of eight years.

In the spring of 1914 Mr. and Mrs. Hansen began the erection of their new fifteen-room home, the dimensions of which are thirty by thirty-two feet, and eighteen feet high. It has hot and cold water, furnace heat and electric light. His large barn also is lighted with electricity. Among the improvements is a model hog house built in 1910, twenty-two by forty feet constructed of cement, and having running water. In order to equip his farm the better, both as a home and as a means of making a livelihood, Mr. Hansen has spent several thousands of dollars, and has invested it in such a way as to bring the best returns. He raises draft horses and Poland China hogs.

Mr. and Mrs. Hansen are the parents of nine children, namely: Thora, married Morten Ipsen, a farmer of Sharon township; Hilda, Alma, Thorvald, Magnus, Hertha, Emanuel, Halger and Arthur.

The community in which he lives has shown its confidence in, and regard for, Mr. Hansen by electing him a school director, a trustee and road supervisor. He has taken an active interest in politics, being a member of the Republican party. He and his wife have been for many years affiliated with the Lutheran church at Kimballton.

Mr. and Mrs. Hansen have given attention to the rearing and education

of their children, and have kept well informed concerning the events which occupy the world's thoughts. Nor have they forgotten the needs of their own community, being liberal with both their time and means in matters that concerned the general good. Compared with the strenuous lives of city dwellers, theirs have been quiet and unobtrusive, but in actual worth and in the good accomplished, they have been equally as valuable.

GEORGE C. EVERTS.

The gentleman whose name heads this sketch may well be proud of the position he has established for himself, both financially and as one of the substantial men of his township. His straightforward dealings and good management have won for him the admiration and respect of all who know him, and in these qualities he has set a splendid example for his neighbors. He sprang from a sturdy stock of honest, hard-working people, and has done credit to the principles of his ancestors. Mr. Everts has always impressed upon his children, of whom he may be justly proud, the thought that in hard work, there is no disgrace.

George C. Everts, general farmer and stockman, of Lincoln township, Audubon county, was born on May 5, 1858, in Illinois. He is a son of G. C. and Susanna (Smith) Everts. His early education was acquired in the country schools, which he attended until sixteen years of age, when he quit school and went to work on his father's farm, remaining with him until he was twenty-six years old, when he was married and moved on a farm in Melville township, Audubon county, where he rented and lived for seven years. He then moved to Audubon, where he remained two years, during which time he was in the employ of E. N. Taggart, in the nursery business. From this place he went to Lincoln township, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in section 36, and about four and one-half years later bought eighty acres adjoining his farm, for which he paid twenty-seven dollars and fifty cents an acre. In 1908, Mr. Everts bought another farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Faulk county, Dakota, and in 1913 bought eighty acres in Douglas township, Audubon county, Iowa, on which one of his sons now lives. He has invested about ten thousand dollars in improvements on his home place, where he raises a few cattle, and makes a specialty of Duroc-Jersey hogs, which he offers at a public annual sale. In addition to cattle and hogs, Mr. Everts handles a few pure-bred Percheron horses, and

feeds all the grain raised on the place to his stock. He is a member of the Methodist church at Ross, of which he serves as trustee. Mr. Everts is a member of the following lodges: The Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Modern Woodmen of America and Yeomen. In politics he is a Republican.

The father of our subject was a blacksmith by trade, which vocation he followed in Illinois for nine years after he was married, going from there to West Dayton, Webster county, Iowa, where he had a blacksmith shop for five years. He was born in Richland county, Ohio. He was married in 1856, to Susanna Smith, a native of the state of Maine. She died at Yorktown, Illinois. Four years later he married Susan Adams, and moved on a farm in Guthrie county, Iowa, where he lived one year, then came to Audubon county, retiring from business two years later. By his second wife he had three children—one boy and two girls—George C., Margaret and Stella.

George C. Everts was united in marriage, at the age of twenty-six, to Martha Bowman, daughter of Henry and Jane (Livingston) Bowman, born February 23, 1862. Her parents lived in Crawford county, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Everts are the parents of the following children: Maud, married Clayton Wickham and lives near her father; Ernest, married Alice Ballou and lives in Douglas township; Alma, married H. E. Williams and lives in Lincoln township; Lois, lives at home and is teaching school No. 7, in Lincoln township; and one who died in infancy.

THOMAS B. THOMSEN.

One of the leaders among the younger citizens of Audubon county, Iowa, and especially of Kimballton, where he is now serving his second term as mayor, is Thomas B. Thomsen, who was born on February 27, 1875, in Denmark, the son of Balster and Gunder Maria (Terkesen) Thomsen, natives of Denmark, who came to America in 1884. After living in Vermont for two years, they moved to the state of New York, where they lived for four years and then came to Audubon county, Iowa, purchasing eighty acres in Sharon township. The father is still living upon this farm and is a man highly respected in the community. He and his wife are members of the Danish Lutheran church. They were the parents of seven children, as follow: John G, a farmer of near Exira; Maria, married Nels Johnson, of Sharon township; Annie, married Jurgen Hansen, and lives near Exira; Katherine, lives at home; Minnie, married Andrew Sands, of Poplar, Iowa;

Christina, married A. Shupe, of Douglas township, Audubon county; and Thomas B., the subject of this sketch.

With limited opportunities to obtain an education, Thomas B. Thomsen received only a brief training in the public schools of this county, and after working at home on the farm until the age of twenty years, he managed his father's farm for several years and then worked on his sister's place for three years. For two years he was a member of the firm of Thomsen & Larsen, a mercantile firm of Kimballton. He then rented his father-in-law's farm, consisting of one hundred and forty acres, which three years later, in 1914, he purchased.

Thomas B. Thomsen was married, January, 1908, to Nettie Jorgensen, the daughter of Hans J. Jorgensen, who was born on November 8, 1843, in Aro, Island of Marstal, Denmark, the son of Jens Grodt and Ella Neilsen. Her parents came to America in 1870 and, after living four years in the state of Illinois, they moved to Sharon township, Audubon county, where they lived until March 19, 1914, when Mr. Jorgensen passed away. He was twice married, first, in the spring of 1879, to Agnes Hedvig Petersen, a native of Denmark, who is now deceased. They had seven children, as follow: Jens P., a veterinary surgeon at Elkhorn; Peter G., a farmer of Sharon township; Elia Brodersen, of Shelby county, Iowa; Anna, married R. P. Larson, a merchant of Kimballton, Iowa; Cecelia, married Dr. P. E. James, of Elkhorn; Agneta, married Thomas B. Thomsen, the subject of this sketch, and Alfiede, a farmer of near Elkhorn, Iowa. Mr. Jorgensen was married a second time, November 8, 1894, to Anna K. Anderson, of Jylland, Denmark. Two children were born to this union, Agnes and William.

The late Hans J. Jorgensen purchased the land where Kimballton now stands in 1883. He sold the first town lot in the southeast corner of the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 30, on which the Commercial Hotel and the general store now stands and it is now owned by the heirs and occupied by R. P. Larsen, of the firm of Larsen & Jorgensen. One of the organizers of the Landsmen's National Bank at Kimballton, Iowa, organized September 4, 1909, Mr. Jorgensen was its vice-president until his death. He did a great deal to promote building operations in Kimballton and, although he never aspired to office, he was a staunch Republican and served as the first postmaster of Kimballton, beginning in 1884. He was president of the Kimballton Investment Company, organized October 5, 1910, and instrumental in having the hotel built here. He also helped to get the Atlantic Northern railroad built. A splendid type of self-made man, generous to a fault, he was always willing and ready to help in any worthy

public enterprise. First a member of the Danish Lutheran church at Elkhorn, Iowa. he later affiliated with the church in Sharon township.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Thomsen are the parents of three children, namely: Goldie, Edna and Hans. Mr. Thomsen is serving his second term as mayor of Kimballton and during his entire life has taken an active interest in politics. He is now identified with the Progressive party. Mr. and Mrs. Thomsen are members of the Danish Lutheran church at Kimballton.

On the farm, Mr. Thomsen carries on general farming and stock raising. He has a well-equipped farm for stock raising and one which he may truly regard as the fruit of his own industry, economy and good management. Thomas B. Thomsen is highly respected by the people of this community.

REV. ERNEST J. W. STARCK.

One of the well-known and popular ministers now holding a pastorate in Audubon county, Iowa, is Rev. Ernest J. W. Starck, pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Trinity church, and also pastor of St. John's church of Audubon. Born on September 18, 1862, in West Prussia, Germany, the son of E. G. and Johanna Charlotte (Wendt) Starck, he was brought to this country by his parents two years after his birth, in 1864. Both of his parents were natives of Germany; the former died in November, 1907, and the latter died in May, 1903. E. G. Starck and wife reared a family of eight children, four sons and four daughters. It is a remarkable fact that three sons are all ministers in the German Evangelical Lutheran church. Rev. Ernest J. W. Starck is the eldest child born to his parents. Rev. Herman O. Starck is pastor of a church at Ada, Norman county, Minnesota. Rev. Alwin C. Starck is pastor of a church at LaSalle, New York. Clara and Jennie Strack are at present residents of Chicago, Illinois.

Educated in parochial, public and private schools, and a graduate of the theological seminary at Springfield, Illinois, with the class of 1887, Ernest J. W. Starck has been engaged in the ministry during practically his entire life. He is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other states, also of the district of Iowa.

Ernest J. W. Starck was married on August 14, 1895, at St Paul, Minnesota, to Elizabeth Wolf, the daughter of George and Susanna (Sapp) Wolf. Mrs. Starck was born January 16, 1869, in Germany, and is one of a family

of three children, she being the eldest. The other two children, Mrs. Margaretha Weiss and Mrs. Wilhelmina Kluge, are still living in Germany.

Rev. Ernest J. W. Starck and wife are the parents of nine children, E. G. F., Adolph H., Walter R. G., Arthur Marc F., Herbert Bernhardt I., Frederick William H. A., Else Elizabeth, Edward and Frieda Susanna Johanna.

During his pastorate of Trinity church of Lincoln township and St. John's church at Audubon, Rev. Starck has had very much to do with the growth of these congregations and the prosperity of the two churches. He is known to be an eloquent and persuasive pulpit orator, a sympathetic and efficient pastor and is naturally popular, not only with his congregation, but with all the people of the community to which he ministers. A very worthy citizen, he is entitled to representation in this volume as one of the leading ministers of Audubon county.

HANS P. BONNESEN.

Located on the most prominent corner of the town of Kimballton, Iowa, will be found the hardware and implement establishment owned by Hans P. Bonnesen, and over which he has presided since the spring of 1913. The business is a consolidation of the hardware store formerly owned by George J. Nelsen and the pump and windmill stock formerly owned by Nelsen & Nelsen. The consolidated business is housed in a handsome brick structure, twenty-five by eighty feet, with a basement under the entire building, and is filled to capacity with hardware and implements, such as carpenters' and builders' supplies, stoves, ranges, furnaces, cutlery, firearms, tinware, glass, buggies, wagons, washing machines, twine, pumps, windmills, motor trucks, cream separators, oil and gas engines, oil tractors, manure spreaders, ensilage cutters, hay, grain and corn machines. The stock is conveniently shelved and neatly arranged. The proprietor of this business employs two men, Wilhelm Larsen and Conrad Nielsen, who are kept busy attending to the wants of the increasing trade. Mr. Bonnesen makes a specialty of the pump business, and one of his employes devotes his entire time to this business. The subject of this sketch is one of the best advertisers of Kimballton, and his advertisements always appear in a readable form. Nothing is promised in advertising that is not carried out to the letter and this is one of the chief causes of his large and growing trade.

Hans P. Bonnesen was born on April 17, 1870, at Slagelse, on the Island of Zealand, Denmark, son of Lars Bonnesen and Christina Sorensen, both born on the above mentioned island. The father is a farmer and carpenter and he and his wife are still living in their native land. They were the parents of eight children, as follow: Mary lives in Denmark; Hans P., the subject of this sketch; Christina lives in Denmark; Catherine lives in Racine, Wisconsin; Margaret lives in San Francisco, California; Fred, a farmer in Sharon township, Audubon county; Otto lives at Fresno, California, and Carl lives in Denmark.

Mr. Bonnesen attended the schools in his native land, and at the age of twelve began to make his own way in the world. After working for some time on the railroads in his native country, he came to America in 1892, at the age of twenty-two, and located in Cass county, Iowa, south of Elkhorn. While engaged in farming here he attended the Danish school at Elkhorn, and later became a teacher in Sharon township, Audubon county, continuing for two years.

After farming in Sharon township for four years, Mr. Bonnesen lived in Carroll county, Iowa, for two years, and then came back to Audubon county, living in Douglas township for six years. Renting his farm to a tenant he took a trip to his old home in Denmark during the summer of 1910, and upon his return bought a small farm in Sharon township, and lived on that farm for three years, until the spring of 1913, when he engaged in business at Kimballton. He has served as president of the Sharon Creamery Company, and also as president of the Kimballton Creamery Company for a time. While engaged in farming he was an extensive breeder of Shorthorn cattle. He now owns two hundred acres of land in Douglas township, and also property in Kimballton.

On March 2, 1898, Hans P. Bonnesen was married to Signa Christensen, who was born in Sharon township, Audubon county, Iowa, the daughter of Peter Christiansen. To Mr. and Mrs. Hans P. Bonnesen have been born four children, namely: Esther, who is a student in the Audubon high school; Elmer, Inez and Evelyn.

Always a staunch Republican in politics, Mr. Bonnesen is at present a member of the Kimballton school board, and formerly served as a justice of the peace. He and his family are members of the Danish Lutheran church, and take an active part in the affairs of this congregation. Hans P. Bonnesen must be regarded as a self-made man and is well known and well liked in this section of Audubon county.

LARS P. LARSEN.

Success in any line of business requires patience and perseverance. Disappointments and unforeseen difficulties are continually presenting themselves for diplomatic handling, competition arises, and even the elements seem to join forces in testing the material of which a man is made. Success gained in the face of difficulties is all the more appreciated when it comes, and no man is better able to realize this than is the subject of this sketch, who is now in a position to sit back and enjoy the benefit and comforts of his well-earned home.

Lars P. Larsen, general farmer and stockman, Douglas township, was born on October 14, 1870, in Denmark. He is a son of Lars and Gertrude Larsen. Mr. Larsen attended school in his native land, but quit at the age of fourteen to work on his father's farm, where he remained until nineteen years old. He came to America alone on the German ship, "Weser," landing in Baltimore.

Arriving in Audubon county, Iowa, in 1890, he worked on a farm in Sharon township for one year, after which he went to Melville township, where he remained two years. From this place he went to Minnesota, worked on a farm one year, and then came back to Audubon, rented a farm of eighty acres near Hamlin for one year. Giving this farm up, he rented another in Sharon for two years, and later rented a farm of eighty acres in section 32 for two years, at the end of which time he purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, to which he shortly afterward added another of forty acres, for which he paid thirty dollars an acre. Seeing an opportunity to reap a profit, he sold forty acres of his farm four or five years later, and bought eighty acres one mile north of his place. Mr. Larsen has put about six thousand dollars' worth of improvements on his farm, including drainage. The principal crops to which he gives his attention are corn and small grain, the corn yielding about fifty bushels to the acre, and the oats about thirty-five. He feeds about one hundred head of hogs and a car of cattle each year.

Mr. Larsen is a Baptist, and holds the office of treasurer in his church, at which he is a regular attendant. He has also held some of the township offices, among them being treasurer for a term of five years, trustee four years, and was elected school director in 1915. He has always voted the Republican ticket.

The parents of our subject never came to this country, preferring to remain in the land of their birth. His father was a farmer in Denmark, and

owned about eighty acres of land. He was a soldier in the war between Germany and Denmark. To him and his wife, Gertrude, were born five children, Anna, Lars, Nets, Christiana, Martin. Anna and Christiana live in Denmark. Martin lives on a farm in Douglas township, Audubon county.

In 1894, Lars P. Larsen was united in marriage with Mary Larsen, daughter of Martin Larsen, of Sharon township, at the home of the bride. They are the parents of six children, Esther, Alfred, Arthur, Gertrude, Stella, Myrtle. Esther received her education at the Des Moines College and is now teaching music. The other children are at home.

HENRY MINERMAN.

One of the best-known, most progressive and most prosperous farmers of Greeley township, this county, is Henry Minerman, a native of Germany, who came to this country when he was eighteen years of age, landing in the city of New Orleans on the day which marked the deadly riot in that city following the election of General Grant to the Presidency, in which twelve persons were killed. His first impressions of this country, therefore, were not of the most agreeable character and he would have turned back to his native land, had he been able to do so. Needless to say, he never since has had cause to regret that he did not follow his inclination to flee from what he first regarded as a land of violence and sudden death.

Henry Minerman was born on January 30, 1850, in Osnabruck, Hanover, Germany. His mother was an Ellinghouse. His father died when Henry was three years old, leaving a widow and another son, Charles; the latter now lives in Matamoras, Pennsylvania. Upon his father's death, Henry was adopted into another family and was carefully reared, receiving a good education in his native land. At the age of eighteen he came to America, reaching New Orleans, as noted above, on the day of the deadly election riots. He proceeded up the river to St. Louis, en route to the home of his aunt, near Johannesburg, Illinois, where he lived for eight years, working on the farm, at the end of which time he moved to Johnson county, Iowa, where he worked for a year or two and where he was married. In the spring of 1882 he came to Audubon county, this state, buying eighty acres of railroad land in Greeley township, giving for the same ten dollars an acre, and on this farm ever since has made his home. He prospered here and in 1892 bought an additional tract of one hundred and twenty acres in sections 21 and 27, in Greeley township, to which he since has added one hundred and



MR. AND MRS. HENRY MINEMAN

twenty acres in the same township. He has recently built an entirely new set of buildings on the home farm in section 21, and now has one of the best-equipped and best-tilled farms in that part of the county.

In October, 1877, in Johnson county, Iowa, Henry Minerman was united in marriage to Elizabeth Watson, who was born in Burroughs county, Illinois, the daughter of Thomas and Mary A. (How) Watson, the former of whom was a native of Scotland and the latter of Ireland. To this union seven children have been born, of whom six are living: Charles, who lives in South Dakota, married Bertie May, to which union four children were born: Leonard, Vivian, Beatrice and Marcella; William, who lives in California, married Ada Mason and has one child, Wilma; Minnie, who married William Wahlert, lives in Aneta, Iowa, and has four children; Harold, Lyman, Ruth Vellma and Hazel Eunice; Bertie, who attended the Dennison high school, the western college at Harlan and Highland Park College at Des Moines, is a teacher in the schools of Greeley township; Veda, who followed the same course of training, also is teaching in the Greeley township schools, and Walter is a student in the Exira high school.

Mr. Minerman is a member of the Lutheran church, while his wife and Bertie are members of the Methodist church. He is a Republican and takes an active interest in the political affairs of the county. He is a substantial citizen and very popular with all who know him.

CHRIST JENSEN.

Christ Jensen, who owns a farm of a hundred and eighty acres in Douglas township, Audubon county, Iowa, and who is a well-known farmer and stockman of this township, was born, April 16, 1864, the son of Christian and Karsen Christians, both of whom spent all their lives in their native land, Denmark. Christian Christians owned a small farm of twenty-seven acres in Denmark. He served in the war of 1864 between Germany and Denmark as a private soldier, and died in his native land. Christian and Karsen Christians were the parents of four children, Mary, Christ, Jens and Sophia.

Christ Jensen attended school in Denmark until fourteen years of age, when he began working out. After working out for two or three years he came to America, landing in New York City. From there he traveled to Independence, Iowa, where he worked on a farm and in the timber for two

years. At the end of this time he moved to Shelby county and purchased eighty acres of land, where he lived until 1892, when he sold out his farm and all his property and bought a farm in section 15, of Douglas township, Audubon county, comprising eighty acres. Mr. Jensen paid twenty dollars an acre for the farm, and since this time has been increasing his holdings of farm land until he now owns one hundred and eighty acres. He has invested some four thousand dollars in all kinds of improvements and his farm is especially well drained. His principal crops are corn and small grain.

In 1890 Christ Jensen was married to Mary Jensen, daughter of Louis Jensen, a citizen of Elkhorn. To them have been born seven children, John, Lydia, Larson, Joseph, Alex, Alvin and Ella. John married Pearl Cofman and they live in Audubon. The remainder of the family are living at home. Two of the children are attending school.

A member of the Danish Lutheran church, Mr. Jensen has been secretary and trustee of the congregation for the past ten years. He is a Republican in politics, and has served as school director for one year, and as road supervisor for three or four years.

Not only is Christ Jensen well known as a farmer, but he is well known as an enterprising and valuable citizen of Douglas township. Like so many of his fellow countrymen he has become thoroughly accustomed to the ways and manners of this country, and no land is nearer and dearer to him than America, and no flag is more beautiful than the stars and stripes.

ANDREW P. HANSON.

Among the citizens of Audubon county, Iowa, who have built up comfortable homes and surrounded themselves with valuable personal property and real property as well, few have attained a greater degree of success than Andrew P. Hanson, a well-known farmer of Oakfield township. With few opportunities except what his own efforts were capable of mastering and with many discouragements to overcome he has achieved an exceptional success in life, and now has the gratification of knowing that the community has been benefited by his presence and by his counsel. He is regarded as a good business man and excellent manager, a man possessed of sound judgment and keen foresight, and one who believes in always pressing forward. Mr. Hanson has ever enjoyed the respect and esteem of those who know him. His

friendly manner, his business ability, his interest in public affairs, and upright living has won for him the universal esteem of the people of Audubon county.

Andrew P. Hanson was born on April 7, 1869, at Fyn, Denmark, son of Jens and Karen (Axelsen) Hanson, both natives of Denmark. The former was born on March 10, 1836, and the latter on June 4, 1830. Jens P. Hanson received his education in Denmark. His parents were very poor, and he had to start out early in life and work as a farm hand. He served in the German and Danish War of 1864. By careful economy he managed to save part of his wages, both in his native land and in this country. He came to America in 1874 and located at Avoca, Iowa, where he purchased a house for thirty dollars. It was twelve feet square. Mr. Hanson started to work for the railroad as a section hand, and was thus employed for four years. After this he purchased forty acres of land in section 4, of Oakfield township. This land was bought from the Rock Island Railroad at six dollars an acre. Mr. Hanson paid sixty-six dollars cash for the first payment. Later he increased his holdings to one hundred and twenty acres.

Jens and Karen (Axelsen) Hanson had four children, Christian, Christiana, Lena and Andrew P. Christian married Botilda Wolf. Christiana married Nels Christensen. Lena married Chris Peterson.

Andrew P. Hanson received a very limited education in Avoca, Iowa, where he attended school for two years. Then his parents moved to Audubon county. Since there were no schools in the township where they settled, the children had no opportunity of continuing their studies. Andrew P. worked at herding cattle for four years. His father's health failed and he had to take up his father's work, and worked for him until he was twenty-one years old. His father turned over the farm to him, which is the place upon which he is now living. Mr. Hanson purchased a hundred and sixty acres in addition. He now owns two hundred and eighty acres. He has put ten thousand dollars worth of improvements upon the place. He has modern barns. His home is strictly modern, and has electric lights, hardwood floors, and all other conveniences. Mr. Hanson raises about one hundred acres of corn a year which averages at least fifty bushels to the acre. He also raises seventy acres of small grain, which produces thirty-five bushels to the acre. Mr. Hanson feeds about a hundred and fifty head of cattle a year, and milks about twenty cows the year round. He keeps about one hundred head of cattle on the place, and this has proved a very profitable investment.

When Andrew P. Hanson was twenty-one years old he was elected revisor of the West Hamlin cry. He was elected president of the cry when

he was twenty-five years old. He held that office for ten years. He has been township trustee of Oakfield township for ten years.

Andrew P. Hanson was married on December 27, 1893, to Elsie Katherine Christensen, daughter of Andrew R. and Elsie Mary (Nelson) Christensen. Ten children have been born to this union, Lillie, James, Maggie, Alfred, Elsie, Dollie, William, Hazel, Russel and Ida. All are living at home. Mrs. Hanson was born in Denmark. Her parents were natives of that country. Her father was a tailor by trade and has followed that occupation all his life. He was born in Jutland, Denmark, January 3, 1844. His wife was born October 11, 1846, and died January 3, 1884. Andrew R. Christensen died in Denmark, April 19, 1915. He and his wife had four children, Nels, Trena, Thomas and Elsie.

Mr. Hanson's father died October 19, 1895, and his mother died December 11, 1903.

In politics Andrew P. Hanson is a Republican. He is a member of the Seventh Day Adventist church, and has been an elder in the church for a good many years. He is a member of the church conference of the state of Iowa, and is president of the Marne and Elkhorn Telephone Company.

AUGUST KIENAST.

This country has long been known as the land of opportunity, but it required a high degree of courage and industry to turn the possibilities into reality. When a young man is willing to forsake the land of his birth, and allow hundreds of miles to separate him from his dear ones, it is evident that he considers America the finest country on the face of the globe, and is willing to pay the price in resolute endeavor that will win success in his adopted country. This has been exemplified in the life of the man whose name heads this sketch.

August Kienast, general farmer and stockman, of Lincoln township, Audubon county, was born in Germany, June 29, 1865. He came to America at the age of eight years. He attended the public schools of Michigan until he was fourteen years old, and then worked on a farm for four years, when he traveled through the western states for a few years. Returning home in 1887, he bought one hundred and twenty acres of land, and in 1909 bought the balance of his present home place in Lincoln township, amounting in all to four hundred and twenty acres, and on which he has spent about ten thou-

sand dollars in improvements. His principal crops are corn and small grain, the former of which averages about fifty bushels to the acre, and the latter about thirty-five bushels, the most of which is fed to the stock on the place. He has for sale each year a large number of cattle and about a carload of hogs. He is a faithful member of the German Lutheran church, in which he has held the office of trustee. He is a stanch believer in the principles of the Republican party.

The parents of our subject were both born in Germany, the father being a day laborer and truck farmer. He came to America in 1873, locating in Michigan, where he worked in a saw-mill for four years, after which he moved to Atlantic, Iowa, and worked on a railroad construction train. Having accumulated sufficient funds, he purchased a farm of forty acres near Audubon, and farmed for three years, at the end of which time he sold out and went to Lincoln Center, where he bought eighty acres, and soon after added sixty acres more to his possessions, and lived on the place until he died. Their children were Wilhelmena, August and Charles.

August Kienast was married in 1889 to Barbara Ullrich, of Audubon county. They are the parents of six children, Herman, Helena, John, Mary, Eliza, Ida, all of whom are at home but two girls. Helena and Mary, who are in Sioux City. Mrs. Kienast died in 1900, and in 1912 Mr. Kienast married Mima Reekman, daughter of Henry Reekman, by whom he had three children, Arthur, Harry and Hulda, who are all at home.

ANTHONY MEURER.

It is sometimes considered that the history of great men only is worthy of preservation and little merit exists among the masses to call forth the praises of the historian or the appreciation of the public. However, a careful study of the lives of the early settlers of the state of Iowa will teach lessons of patience and perseverance, thrift and industry, that will be helpful to many and are worthy of permanent record.

Among the earlier pioneer citizens of Audubon county, is Anthony Meurer, a retired farmer of Greeley township, now living in Exira.

Anthony Meurer was born in Germany, December 6, 1837, the son of Stephen and Barbara Meurer, both natives of Germany. The former was a carpenter by trade and followed that trade in Germany until he came to

America in 1841 and located at Utica, New York, where he followed his trade for four years. At the end of this time, he moved to Chicago, Illinois, and after remaining there for four years, moved to Freeport, Illinois. He died there in 1893 and his wife died in 1891. He was born in 1810 and she in 1821. He served three years in the German army.

Stephen and Barbara Meurer were the parents of six children, as follow: Anthony, the subject of this sketch; Mary, who is deceased, married Joseph Gozell; Emma married Joseph Diggon; Kate married Joseph Kirver; Gertrude married William Hamilton; John married Anna Broady.

Anthony Meurer attended school in Chicago, Illinois, until his parents moved to Freeport, Illinois, where he worked in a brick-yard for six years. He then secured a position as a farm hand and worked in that capacity until he was married. After his marriage, Mr. Meurer rented a farm for a few years. In 1873 he worked on a cattle ranch as a stock feeder. In 1878 he came to Audubon county and located in Greeley township. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres in 1875 for which he paid twelve dollars an acre for eighty acres and twenty-two and one-half dollars for the other eighty. At one time he had two hundred and forty acres of land. He was engaged in general farming and raised about one hundred and twenty-five head of hogs and fifty head of cattle each year.

Anthony Meurer was married on December 7, 1863, to Mary Kriebs, the daughter of Joseph Kriebs. Six children were born to this marriage, as follow: John married Delilah Lee and has four children, Lola, Thomas, Danell and Lula; Frank married Jennie May and has three children, John, Bernard and Albert; Joseph is single; Mary married Frank Beers and has six children, Bert, George, Orville, Joseph, Margaret and Mary; Anna married Frank Duvall and has five children, Nellie, Olive, Clark, Mildred and Martha; Emma married Bert May and has six children, Gerald, Elwein, Franklin, Chester, Arnold and Arlene. Mrs. Anthony Meurer was born in Germany and came to America with her parents when three years old. They located at Galena, Illinois, where they spent the remainder of their lives. They had six children. Mrs. Meurer died on November 22, 1914.

Mr. Meurer and family are devout members of the Catholic church. Mr. Meurer has served as school director and road commissioner. He is a Republican. During the Civil War, he enlisted in the Seventh Illinois Cavalry and served nine months. Anthony Meurer is a good citizen and has been an enterprising farmer. By hard labor he acquired a competence for his declining years and now is able to live upon the fruits of his toil.

LAURITZ PETERSEN.

Lauritz Petersen is one of the best-known general farmers and stock raisers of Douglas township, Audubon county, Iowa. Mr. Petersen has prospered since coming to this country, and now owns a half section of land, a quarter section in his home place and a quarter section which he acquired in two different purchases.

Mr. Petersen was born, December 22, 1860, in Denmark, the son of Peter and Mary (Lawgian) Eskesen, both of whom are natives of Denmark. Peter Eskesen was a carpenter in Denmark. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, E. L., Carl, Lena, Soren W., Louritz, and two who died in their native land. Lena and Soren are still living in Denmark. E. L. lives in Shelby county, and Carl lives in Harlan, Shelby county.

Lauritz Petersen received his education in the schools of his native land, quitting school at the age of fifteen. After leaving school he worked on the farm by the month, until twenty years old, when he came to America. After landing in Boston, Massachusetts, he journeyed to Walnut, Iowa, where he worked on a farm by the month for five years. At the end of this period he married and rented a farm of eighty acres in Shelby county. After living there for five years he removed to Audubon county, where he rented a farm near Poplar for three years. Subsequently, he purchased eighty acres of land in Douglas township, Audubon county, paying twenty-five dollars an acre for the farm. A year later he bought another forty acres for twenty-five and one-half dollars an acre, and three years later he purchased eighty acres more. One of these forty-acre tracts he traded in on the hundred and sixty acres of land which comprises the home farm, and which is located in section 28, in Douglas township. For this last farm Mr. Petersen paid ninety-five dollars an acre. About five thousand dollars have been invested in improvements on the place. The farm is thoroughly fenced with a hog-tight fence. Mr. Petersen's principal crops are corn and small grain. The corn averages about fifty bushels to the acre, and the small grain about thirty-five bushels to the acre. He feeds live stock, selling at least a carload of cattle every year and about a hundred and twenty-five head of hogs.

Lauritz Petersen was married in 1885 to Katrina Hansen, daughter of Hans Hansen, who was a native of Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Petersen have eleven children, Mary, Peter E., Katie, Hansen, Soren V., Nels, Lauritz, Jr., Lena, Arthur, Amanda and Elvina. Mary married Nels P. Jensen, they live in Sharon township and have two children. Peter married Stena Clau-

sen, and they live in Douglas township. Katie married Peter Madsen, and they live in Sharon township. Hansen and Soren live in Douglas township. The remainder of the family are living at home with their parents.

A Republican in politics, Mr. Petersen has served as school director for a period of a year. The Petersen family are members of the Danish Lutheran church, and are prominent in the affairs of this congregation.

Lauritz Petersen, like so many of his fellow countrymen who have established homes and acquired comfortable fortunes in this country, is a good citizen. Intelligent, broad-minded, and genial in his relations with his fellows, he is well liked in the neighborhood where he lives in Douglas township.

JENS JACOBSEN.

Among the younger farmers of Douglas township, Audubon county, Iowa, who are natives of Denmark, and who have made a success of farming in their adopted country, is Jens Jacobsen, a farmer and stock raiser and the proprietor of a hundred and twenty acres of land in Douglas township.

Jens Jacobsen was born, February 29, 1872, in Denmark, the son of Jacob and Elsie Jacobsen, both natives of Denmark. Jacob Jacobsen was a farmer and owned twenty acres of land in the old country. He and his wife had three children, Stena, Jacob and Jens. Stena and Jacob are still living in Denmark.

Jens Jacobsen, after having completed his education in the schools of his native land, quit school at the age of fourteen and began working on a farm, at which he continued until he had reached his majority. Coming to this country, at the age of twenty-one, Mr. Jacobsen first lived in Canada, and after a residence in Canada of a brief period came to Audubon county in 1893, and worked on a farm for six years. Later he worked for the Standard Oil Company at Audubon for seven years, and then purchased a hundred acres of land in sections 33 and 34 of Douglas township. Mr. Jacobsen has invested about six thousand dollars in various improvements. In 1913 he built a new house which cost thirty-five hundred dollars. His principal crops are corn and small grains. His corn averages about fifty bushels and his oats about thirty-five bushels to the acre. Mr. Jacobsen feeds most of the grain to hogs and cattle. Every year he sells fifty head of cattle and about fifty head of hogs from the farm.

Jens Jacobsen was married in 1903 to Mary Christiansen, the daughter

of James Christiansen. Mrs. Jacobsen's parents still live in their native land, Denmark. She has been the mother of four children, Carl Elmer, Seguro Chris, Ruben Saxholm, and Harvey Korguard. All of these children live at home with their parents. The three eldest children attend the country school.

Mr. Jacobsen is a Republican. He has served as school director in Douglas township, and for many years has been prominent in the local affairs of the Republican party. The Jacobsen family are all members of the Danish Lutheran church, and attend the services of this church with great regularity.

Jens Jacobsen is popular in Douglas township and well and favorably known throughout this section. He is today a staunch American who believes in our institutions and our government, and who, if called upon, would be willing to give valiant service in the cause of freedom.

HANS P. RASMUSSEN.

A general farmer and stock raiser of Douglas township, Audubon county, Iowa, and one of the prominent citizens is Hans P. Rasmussen, who owns a hundred and sixty acres of land in the township.

Mr. Rasmussen was born, July 28, 1861, in Denmark, the son of Rasmus and Malen Hansen, both natives of Denmark. The father, a farm hand in his native land, served in the war between Germany and Denmark in 1848 to 1850. Rasmus and Malen Hansen had nine children, Hanna, Christiana, Kerstinia, P. H., Anna, Christ. Christianna, Martin and Christian. All but three members of the family live in Denmark. Anna lives in Cedar Falls; Christianna lives in the state of Washington, and Hans P. is the subject of this sketch.

Hans P. Rasmussen received his education in the country schools of Denmark, which he attended until thirteen years of age. He worked on a farm in Denmark until twenty years old, and then came to this country in 1881, on a Scandinavian steamship line, landing in New York City. After being in New York City for a brief time he came to Exira, Audubon county, living for a time with his uncle. For five years Mr. Rasmussen worked on neighboring farms and for a time worked on the railroad as a section hand near Atlantic. Subsequently, he rented a farm in Oakfield township, Audubon county, and lived there for one year. He then moved to Douglas township, and rented land for seventeen years, eventually purchasing a hundred and sixty acres of land in section 14 at a hundred and fifteen dollars an acre.

Mr. Rasmussen has invested about four thousand dollars in improvements to the farm. His principal crops are corn and small grains, the corn averaging about sixty bushels to the acre and the small grain about forty bushels.

In 1886 Hans P. Rasmussen was married to Mary Matilda Rasmussen. The marriage took place at Atlantic. To this marriage have been born six children, Clarence, Nora, Albert, Martin, Martha, and Marinus, who is deceased. Mrs. Rasmussen died in 1898 in Douglas township. In 1900 Mr. Rasmussen was married to Matilda Knudsen, daughter of Christ Knudsen, a native of Denmark. Three children have been born to the second marriage, Joshua, Rudolph, and one who died in infancy.

A Republican in politics, Mr. Rasmussen has served as school director in Douglas township for fifteen or seventeen years. He and his wife and family are members of the Danish Lutheran church, in which he has served as trustee.

Hans P. Rasmussen is a well-known farmer of Douglas township, an enterprising citizen and a good neighbor. He is popular in the locality where he lives.

NELS CHRISTIAN NELSEN SCHMIDT.

One of the most valuable farms in Douglas township, Audubon county, Iowa, is that owned by Nels Christian Nelsen Schmidt, a well-known farmer and stockman of this township. Mr. Schmidt was born on June 22, 1861, in Denmark, and is the son of Nels Nelsen and Maria Schmidt, both of whom were natives of that country, where the former was a farmer and a laborer. He died in Denmark in 1881 and two years later his widow, the mother of Nels Christian, came to America and lived with her son. They had four children, Peter, Else, Nels C. N. and Hans N. Peter and Else are deceased. Hans N. is a farmer in Douglas township, Audubon county.

Nels C. N. Schmidt received practically all of his education in the schools of his native land, having quit school at the age of fifteen, after which he worked on a farm for five and a half years. He then served his time in the Danish army. In 1882 he came to America, landing in New York and remaining there for one year. From New York he went to Shelby county, Iowa, where he worked for three years on a farm. From Shelby county he moved to Audubon county in 1887 and rented land for two years. He purchased eighty acres of land in 1889, for which he paid seventeen dollars an acre. This farm was located in section 22, in Douglas township. In 1901

Mr. Schmidt bought fifty acres adjoining the original eighty, for which he paid forty dollars an acre. In 1914 he bought sixty acres for one hundred and forty dollars an acre. In all he now owns one hundred and ninety acres. His principal crops are corn and small grains. The corn averages in excess of fifty-five bushels to the acre and the small grains about forty bushels. Most all of the grain is fed to live stock. Mr. Schmidt sells about fifteen head of cattle and from fifty to sixty head of hogs every year. He raises an extra good grade of stock and will have no other kind on the place.

In 1888 Nels C. N. Schmidt was married to Maren Ludwig, the daughter of Soren D. Ludwig, a native of Denmark. Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt were married in Shelby county. They are the parents of four children, as follow: Karsen E. M., lives at home; Soren N., married a daughter of George Jensen and lives in Douglas township; Elena, Sr., died in 1894, and Elena, Jr., lives at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt belong to the Danish Lutheran church. Mr. Schmidt served as secretary of this congregation for a great many years and is also trustee. For one year he was school director in Douglas township. He is a Republican.

Mr. Schmidt is one of the well-known citizens of this section of Audubon county. He is known to be a man who pays strict attention to his own business, who is scrupulous in his dealings with others and whose word is as good as his bond. Naturally, Mr. Schmidt is a popular citizen of Douglas township.

ISAAC PERCY HALLOCK.

In 1866, when the Hallock family was established in Audubon county, the very first settlers were arriving here, so that it is safe to say that the family has been connected with the history of Audubon county, and especially the agricultural life, practically ever since it was occupied by white people. It is true that there were settlers in Audubon county before 1866, but they were very few, and the county had made no considerable progress in any line before that time. The remarkable success of this family in agriculture is to be attributed, not only to the fact that the family was established in the county when land was cheap, but to the peculiar genius which the two generations here have shown for the business of farming.

Isaac Percy Hallock, one of the most extensive farmers of Exira and Oakfield townships, who is a representative of the third generation in Audu-

bon county, but who really is a representative of the second generation of large landowners, is one of the few well-known farmers who is a native of the county. He was born on February 13, 1883, on the farm where he now lives. His parents, Isaac and Malinda Ann (Norton) Hallock, came here in a very early day. The former, who was born in Illinois in 1840, came to Audubon county with his parents when sixteen years old. They located on the farm where Isaac Percy Hallock is now living, entering the land from the government. Coming from Illinois in a prairie schooner they engaged in general farming, and while Isaac and Malinda Ann (Norton) Hallock started in this county with a hundred and sixty acres of government land, they increased their holdings gradually from year to year until they owned twenty-five hundred acres at the time of Mr. Hallock's death. He was known to be the largest stock feeder in the county. When the family first came to Audubon county they were compelled to haul their produce to Omaha and Des Moines by wagon. Isaac and Malinda Hallock were the parents of seven children, Harriett, Clarence, Alice (deceased), and Isaac Percy. Charles, Mary and Irene died in infancy.

Educated in the schools of Exira township, Isaac Percy Hallock saw the opportunities for farming in this section, and after quitting school took up this occupation with his father, with whom he was engaged until he was twenty-one years old. When he had reached his majority he began farming for himself by renting land from his father, and at the latter's death he received a part of the estate, and now controls about eight hundred acres of the best land to be found in Audubon county. Ordinarily, Mr. Hallock keeps about two hundred head of cattle on his farm and feeds out two hundred and fifty head of hogs every year. His farm is exceptional in one respect, in that he has about one hundred acres of timber on the land. Naturally, this timber is very valuable in a prairie country, and Mr. Hallock is conserving it to a time when its value will reach a maximum, and when he can enjoy the full benefit of the policy he has followed.

Mr. Hallock is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He belongs to the latter order at Atlantic. He is a Republican.

It can hardly be expected that a young man who has under his care and supervision eight hundred acres of land can find much time for political or civic activities, and Mr. Hallock has shown rare wisdom in devoting his time, his energy and his ability to his own private business. In developing his farm to the maximum point of production he is perhaps doing more for the community where he lives than he might possibly do by neglecting his farm and

devoting his time to public interests. This is especially true since Iowa's prosperity depends for its permanence upon the volume of agricultural production. Having reached the real crisis in this country, when the population has caught up with and passed the production and supply of food, it is a potent truth that farmers may serve their country best by doing everything in their power to augment the production and conserve the fertility of their farms. In this respect Isaac Percy Hallock deserves to rank as a young man, whose good work is growing year by year.

PETER ANDERSEN.

One of the old-time residents of Audubon county, Iowa, and a man who has contributed much to the success of farming in Douglas township, is Peter Andersen, a well-known farmer and stockman.

Peter Andersen was born in Denmark, April 14, 1846, and is the son of Lars and Martha Andersen, both of whom were natives of Denmark. The father was a shoemaker in his native land and came to America in 1853. After landing in New York he went directly to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he worked on various farms. Subsequently he was able to purchase a farm in Wisconsin, and after having bought eighty acres, farmed in that state for eighteen years. He and his wife had four children, L. N., Morris, Anna and Peter. L. N. Andersen lives in Chicago. Peter is the subject of this sketch. Morris is farming in Missouri. Anna lives in California.

Peter Andersen came to America at the age of seven years. He remained with his father until the latter's death, working on the farm during this period. After his father's death, Peter took the farm in his own hands and managed it for eleven years. Eventually, he sold the farm and moved to Cass county, Iowa, where he worked on a farm for one year. He then came to Audubon county in 1884 and purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Douglas township, in sections 26 and 35. Fourteen years later Mr. Andersen purchased two hundred and forty acres adjoining and kept on adding land until he owned four hundred and forty acres. Some time ago, however, he began selling his land and has now sold all but one hundred acres, the farm upon which he lives.

Peter Andersen was married in 1873 to Dortha Jorgensen, a native of Denmark. They were married in Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Andersen are the parents of six children, as follow: G. J., married Mary Nelsen, lives in

Douglas township and has five children; W. M., married a Miss Petersen and lives in California; F. G., married Mary Jensen and lives in Canada; Amanda, died in 1903; Bertha, married John Jensen and lives in Douglas township; Edna, married Peter Hansen and lives in Carroll county.

Mr. Andersen has about seven thousand dollars invested in improvements on his one hundred-acre farm. His principal crops are corn and oats. His corn averages about fifty bushels to the acre and his oats about thirty-five. Ordinarily, Mr. Andersen sells a carload of cattle and fifty head of hogs every year. His farm has about four hundred rods of tiling upon it. In 1907 he built a new house, which cost three thousand dollars. This house is thoroughly modern in every respect and is a credit to Mr. Andersen's ability as a farmer.

Mr. Andersen is a Republican and has served as township school director and road supervisor. The Andersen family are members of the Danish Lutheran church. Mr. Andersen was president of the church for twelve years. Not only is he prominent as a farmer and in the church of which he and his family are devoted members, but he also takes a keen interest in all civic matters.

TED S. THYGESSEN.

Ted S. Thygesen, a general farmer and stock raiser of Douglas township, Audubon county, Iowa, who owns one hundred and sixty acres of fine farming land in this township, was born March 22, 1869, in Denmark, the son of Soren K. and Mary Thygesen, both natives of Denmark, where the former was a day laborer. Soren K. Thygesen served in the War of 1864, assisting principally in hauling the wounded to headquarters. He and his wife were the parents of six children, George, Ted S., Soren, May, Katie and Anna, all of whom except Anna have come to the United States. George and Soren are farmers in Sharon township. Katie lives in Cameron township. May died in infancy.

Ted S. Thygesen, after having received a limited education in the schools of the old country, quit school at the age of fourteen to work on the farm. From the time he was fourteen until the time he was twenty, he was engaged as a farm worker and then came to the United States, in the meantime having accumulated five hundred dollars. After landing at New York City, he went to Brayton, Iowa, and worked on a farm in the vicinity of Brayton for three years. After this he rented a farm in Cass county, Iowa, for three

years and then moved to Adams county, where he rented a farm for six years. Finally, he located in Audubon county in 1894 and purchased one hundred and twenty acres in sections 15 and 22, in Douglas township. Three years later he bought forty acres adjoining his original farm and here he now lives. Mr. Thygesen has invested about five thousand dollars in various kinds of improvements on the farm, including ditches, drains, fences and outbuildings. He feeds most of the grain he raises to stock which he keeps on the farm. He sells from sixty to seventy head of hogs each year.

Ted S. Thygesen was married in 1897 to Mary Jensen, daughter of Lars Jensen, a native of Denmark. To this union eight children have been born, Anna, Laura, William, Katie, Bertha, Christ, Minnie and Lydia. All of these children are living at home.

A Republican in politics, Mr. Thygesen has served as director of the township schools and has filled this office for two terms, a period of six years. Religiously, the Thygesen family are members of the Danish Lutheran church of Douglas township.

Mr. Thygesen is entirely unassuming and wholly unaffected by the success which he has achieved in his adopted country. Like so many of his countrymen who have come to America, he has succeeded, no doubt, far beyond what he would ever have been able to accomplish in his native land. He is a man who takes a patriotic pride in the institutions of this country and who believes thoroughly in the American spirit of industry and who himself has labored hard and unceasingly for the fortune he has accumulated. Mr. Thygesen is well liked by all his neighbors.

GEORGE LEE WULF.

George Lee Wulf, who owns an excellent farm in Exira township, Audubon county, Iowa, is a comparatively young farmer, who was born April 25, 1881, at Davenport, Iowa. He is a son of Wilhelm and Sophia (Henning) Wulf, both of whom were natives of Germany. William Wulf came to America when he was quite a young man, and after arriving in this country, located temporarily in Davenport, Iowa, where he worked in a saw-mill most of the time. He also worked as a farm hand in the vicinity of Davenport. After his marriage in the latter city in 1883 he moved to Audubon county, settling in Audubon township, where he rented land for five years. At the end of this period he purchased two hundred and forty

acres of land in Exira township and began farming for himself. Later he became an extensive stock raiser and farmer, which occupation he followed until about 1900, when he retired from active farm life. He is still living on his farm in Exira township. His son, Henry, has managed the home farm practically ever since his father's retirement in 1900. William and Sophia (Henning) Wulf were the parents of eight children, Carrie, Mattie, Minnie, Henry, William, Fred, John and George.

George Lee Wulf, after having received his education in the district schools of Audubon and Exira townships, left school and farmed with his father until the latter part of 1912, when he began farming for himself on the farm where he is now living. Mr. Wulf has invested some three thousand dollars in various kinds of improvements on his farm, and is known throughout the township as a very successful young farmer. Ordinarily he raises about thirty-five acres of corn and has about the same acreage in small grains each year. He also raises about twenty acres of hay annually, feeding all his grain and hay to live stock, and has been more than ordinarily successful in this branch of agriculture.

On February 4, 1912, George Lee Wulf was married to Kate Killen, the daughter of Robert Killen, and to this union two children have been born, Raymond and Olive.

A Republican in politics, Mr. Wulf has not been particularly active in the councils of his party, having devoted all of his time and attention to his agricultural interests. He has made many friends in his neighborhood and is well known as an industrious, honorable and broad-minded farmer and citizen.

CHRIST CHRISTENSEN.

One of the most active and successful farmers of Audubon county, Christ Christensen, one of the prominent citizens of Kimballton, Iowa, is now living retired. Born on August 15, 1847, in Vensyssel, Denmark, he is the son of Christ and Inger (Jensdetter) Christensen, who were both natives of Denmark and followed the occupation of farmers. They lived and died in their native land, rearing a family of four children, three of whom are now deceased. They are Kirstine Marie, deceased; Christina, who lives in Utah; Caroline, who is deceased and Christ, the subject of this sketch.

Christ Christensen, who was educated in the schools of his native land, lived at home until seventeen years old, working out as a farm hand and serving as a soldier in the Danish army from April 25, 1870, to July 30, 1871.



CHRIST CHRISTENSEN AND FAMILY

Three years later he came to America, locating in McLain county, Illinois, where he remained for three years. Moving to Rock Island county, Illinois, he remained there four years and in 1881 came to Audubon county, Iowa, locating in Sharon township, one mile south and one-half mile east of Kimballton. There has been nothing phenomenal in Mr. Christensen's success, but it has been attained by steady and consistent efforts. He first purchased forty acres of land at seven dollars an acre and later forty acres more at fifteen dollars an acre. From time to time he added land until he now has one hundred and sixty acres of well-improved land, with many improvements which Mr. Christensen himself has made. During his active career as a farmer he made a specialty of stock raising and was very successful.

In March, 1878, Christ Christensen was married to Ansine Christensen, of Denmark, who came to America in 1873. To this union have been born six children: Inger, who lives one mile north of Elk Horn and who married Marinus Larsen; Helena, who is the wife of Andrew Topp, of Sharon township; Peter, who is employed in the First National bank at Audubon, Iowa; Caroline, who is a teacher and lives with her brother on the farm; Anton and Martinus, who also live on the home farm. Mr. Christensen has been able to give all of his children a splendid education and has every reason to be extremely proud of their accomplishments. They have had the advantage not only of the home schools but also the high school, and the schools of Des Moines and Omaha. In 1911 he built one of the finest modern homes, consisting of eight rooms, to be found in the city of Kimballton and is now living retired in this beautiful home. A director and vice-president of the Landsmen's National Bank of Kimballton, he is also a director and vice-president of the Kimballton & Elk Horn Lumber Company, a director of the Farmers Shipping Union, a member and organizer of the Farmers Butchering Company and treasurer of the Kimballton Creamery Company for two years, a concern which he helped to organize.

A staunch Democrat in politics, Mr. Christensen served as township clerk from 1884 to 1892. During the past two years he has been serving on the city council of Kimballton and was also treasurer of the Danish Lutheran church of Kimballton, of which all the members of his family are faithful and loyal adherents. Mr. Christensen takes a wide interest in the affairs of this church. Although he and his wife started in in a small way, they have reared and educated a splendid family of children and have also attained for themselves and their children a substantial competence. Mr. and Mrs. Christensen are well-known and popular socially in Kimballton and vicinity, and they have many warm friends in Audubon county.

J. K. ANDERSON.

J. K. Anderson, one of the capable farmers of Douglas township, Audubon county, Iowa, who owns three hundred and eighty acres of land in this township, and who is one of its most enterprising and popular citizens, was born on June 24, 1865, in Denmark, the son of Andrew and Maria Sorensen, both of whom were natives of Denmark. Andrew Sorensen owned and cultivated a little farm of fifteen acres in his native land. He served in the War of 1864 between Germany and Denmark. Taken captive during that war he was held about three months and then sent back to Denmark. He came to America in 1879, traveling to Harlan, Iowa, where he worked in a brick-yard for one and a half years. He then rented a farm near Kimballton, Iowa, where he remained for three or four years. Subsequently, he purchased a farm two miles north of Kimballton and lived on this farm until his death, in 1907. Andrew and Maria Sorensen were the parents of seven children, of whom J. K. was the eldest. The others were Soren, Nels, Otto, Lawrence, Martin, Anna, all of whom are living in this country.

J. K. Anderson attended the public schools of his native land until fourteen years of age, when he came to this country with his parents. After working for a time in a brick-yard at Harlan, Iowa, he began working on a farm, and in 1887 rented a farm in Audubon county. In 1880 he purchased a farm in Shelby county, on the border of Audubon county, comprising eighty acres, and being industrious and economical in his habits he added to the farm until he was the owner of four hundred and sixty acres of fine land in the two counties. After living in this community for twenty-three years, he purchased eighty acres in Douglas township, Audubon county, where he built a modern home in 1914. During late years he has invested about four thousand dollars in various kinds of improvements on the farm. He feeds all the grain produced on the farm to live stock, and is also compelled to purchase grain to feed his stock. Ordinarily he sells about one carload of cattle, and approximately one hundred head of hogs every year.

In 1887 J. K. Anderson was married to Christena P. Christensen, daughter of Jens C. Christensen, who lived west of Kimballton, Iowa, and to this union have been born nine children, Jens A., S. C., Luella, Caroline, Mabel, Edith, Marie, Martin and Henry Lavern. Jens A. married Anna Petersen, and lives in Audubon county on his father's farm. Luella is the wife of Christ Nelson. The other children are unmarried and live at home with their parents.

A Republican in politics, J. K. Anderson has been school director of his township for four years, and has also served as trustee of his home township for a short time. The Anderson family all attend the Danish Lutheran church.

It must be admitted that Mr. Anderson is and has been for many years one of the extensive and wideawake farmers in this section of Audubon county. By the skillful management of his farm property he has come to be well-to-do.

RILEY P. CLARK.

What a wonderful heritage a man gives his children when he leaves behind him a knowledge of a life well spent and evidence of the good he has accomplished for his community. To be considered the foremost man of his county in his day and a leader in all things pertaining to the welfare of the community does not fall to the lot of many men. Only those who are truly great in heart and mind, of indomitable energy and unfailing optimism are capable of winning the trust and confidence which place them in the leadership in matters of public good, especially in a new section. This knowledge is possessed by the children of Riley P. Clark, Sr., among whom is the subject of this sketch, Riley P. Clark, Jr.

Riley P. Clark, Jr., a well-known farmer and stockman of Exira township, was born in Jasper county, Iowa, November 1, 1864. He is the son of Riley P., Sr., and Juliet C. (Davis) Clark, the former of whom was born in Ohio in 1830, and died in September, 1891.

Riley P. Clark, Jr., was educated in Audubon county. His parents came to Audubon county in March, 1865, and located on the Doctor Ballard farm in Oakfield township. After leaving school Riley P. Clark, Jr., farmed on rented land. Mr. Clark rented land until 1893. He purchased eighty acres of land in 1887, and increased his holdings from time to time, until he now owns five hundred and fifty-seven acres of land. At one time he was a rather extensive landowner in Guthrie county, but later he sold that land. He raises about two hundred acres of corn every year and about two hundred acres of small grain. Mr. Clark feeds about a hundred and twenty hogs every year, and about three carloads of cattle. He owns a herd of registered Hereford cattle, numbering a hundred and fifty-six, and has exhibited them at county fairs, where they have won valuable prizes wherever they have been shown. He has a sale every year of Hereford cattle, and the prices received average

about one hundred and seventy-two dollars a head. Mr. Clark has spent about twelve thousand dollars on improvements, which have been placed upon his present farm holdings.

On November 25, 1885, Riley P. Clark, Jr., was married to Hattie J. Reed, daughter of William and Mary (Rose) Reed. To this union the following children have been born, Rhea, Ethel, Curtis, Hobert, Leilae, Thomas, Josephine, Hardy, Benjamin, Helen, William and Ponde. The last two are deceased. Rhea married Frank Mesching, and they have one child, Genevie. Ethel married Benjamin Whitmore, and they have one child. Mrs. Clark was born in Guthrie county, Iowa. Her parents were natives of Ohio, where she grew to womanhood. In 1859 her parents moved to Guthrie county, Iowa, where they remained the rest of their lives. William Reed was a soldier in the Civil War, and served his country valiantly during that great period of civil strife. He and his wife were the parents of four children, E. E., Benjamin, Hattie and Millie.

Mr. Clark is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, at Atlantic. He is a member of the board of supervisors, and in politics is identified with the Republican party. He is a prominent and influential citizen of Exira township and one of the best-known farmers of Audubon county.

JOSEPH L. WHEELER.

Joseph L. Wheeler is a well-known farmer of Audubon township and the proprietor of three hundred acres of land in that township. Mr. Wheeler received his early education in Cook county, Illinois, and after leaving school farmed with his father until he was thirty-two years of age. He then bought the old homestead farm and began farming for himself. Mr. Wheeler bought two hundred acres of land. He is one of the large farmers of Audubon township. He feeds about three carloads of hogs a year. Mr. Wheeler also raises heavy draft horses. He raises about ninety-six acres of corn, although last year he had a hundred and thirty-five acres. He raises from fifteen hundred to five thousand bushels of small grain, and is entitled to rank as one of the influential and prominent agriculturists in Audubon county.

Joseph L. Wheeler was born on July 4, 1861, in Cook county, Illinois. He is the son of George and Salina (Royer) Wheeler. George Wheeler was

born in Canada. His wife was a native of New York state. Although George Wheeler was born in Canada, he was reared in New York. He was a small child when the family moved to Illinois. They located in Cook county. At the time they were offered forty acres of land where the Cook county court house now stands, in exchange for a cook stove. After his marriage George Wheeler continued to live in Illinois until 1882, when he came to Audubon county and settled on a farm where his son Joseph L. now lives. He bought the land from Nathaniel Hamlin, the first settler in Audubon county. He purchased a hundred and sixty acres at first at twenty dollars an acre, and increased his holdings until he owned two hundred and eighty-eight acres. Early in life he had learned dentistry and during the time he lived in Illinois he practiced this profession. While living in Illinois he owned eighty acres of land. During the period of the Civil War George Wheeler tried to enlist, but was rejected. He and his wife had six children, Fernando, James L., Sarah, Oscar, George and Victoria. George and Victoria are deceased. Fernando lives in Wyoming. Sarah married Robert Hamlin. Oscar is a resident of Audubon county.

Joseph L. Wheeler was married on July 4, 1883, to Clara Barchard, daughter of Ira and Annie (Flannery) Barchard. To this union nine children have been born, as follow: Clarence Earl, Clara Ethel, Ira Verne, Royal Leonard, Elda Evelyn, Frank Raymond, Robert Russel, Vivian Irwin and Joseph Lauren. Of these children, Clarence Earl died when young. Clara Ethel married Elmer Boehme, and they have two children, Earl and Evelyn. Ira Verne married Myrtle Johnson, and they have one child, Gerald. Royal Leonard died when small. Ethel Evelyn married J. E. Walker. Frank Raymond died when small. The remainder of the children are single and live at home.

Mrs. Wheeler was born in Cook county, Illinois. Her parents were natives of Cook county and Pennsylvania respectively. Her father grew to manhood in Cook county, and lived near Chicago. He was a detective. For a number of years he was connected with the office of United States marshal. Later in life he worked as a private detective. He was deputy sheriff of Cook county between 1875 and 1880. Ira and Annie (Flannery) Barchard were the parents of eight children, Emilie, Clara E., Clarence C., Ira, Frank, Anna, David and Mamie. Frank and Mrs. Wheeler are the only members of the family who are still living. Mrs. Wheeler's father died in 1906. Her mother died in 1875.

Mr. Wheeler's father died on February 1, 1901. His mother died in August, 1910.

Mr. Wheeler is a member of the Masonic lodge at Exira. He is also a member of the Eastern Star. Mrs. Wheeler is likewise a member of the Eastern Star. Joseph L. Wheeler is identified with the Republican party. Mr. Wheeler considers himself a Republican of the stand-pat faith, and has been loyal to the traditional principles of this party.

WILLIAM D. DAVIS.

William D. Davis is the proprietor of a farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Exira township, Audubon county, Iowa. He began life for himself after having reached his majority by starting on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, which he purchased at that time. In 1912 he purchased the old home place of his father, W. E. Davis, in Exira township, and immediately moved to this farm. Altogether he has invested about five thousand dollars in permanent improvements on the farm. The farm itself is an indication of the vocational zeal which has characterized all of Mr. Davis's efforts.

William D. Davis was born on January 1, 1869, in Henry county, Illinois, the son of William E. and Martha J. (Davis) Davis, both natives of Wales. They were both formerly married. William E. Davis was five years old when he came to America with his parents. They located first in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, but only remained in that city a short time, removing to Ohio, and there William E. Davis received his education and grew to manhood. He served in the Civil War. From Ohio the family moved to Illinois, where Mr. Davis farmed for a number of years, and in 1874 came to Audubon county, Iowa, and purchased a farm of eighty acres in Exira township, and continued to add to this farm until he owned four hundred and eighty acres of land. He was engaged in general farming, and was also extensively engaged in stock raising. By his first marriage he had one son, David E., living at Collinsville, Illinois. Mrs. William E. Davis died on March 14, 1912, after having reared a family of children to lives of honor and usefulness. Two of her six children died in infancy, and Lucy, a third child, is deceased. William D., Frank and Leona are still living. Frank is living in Audubon township. Leona is the wife of Fred Kline, a farmer of Audubon township. She also leaves one daughter by her first marriage, Mrs. H. A. Hill, living near Exira.

William D. Davis was educated in the schools of Henry county, Illinois,

attending the district schools during the winter months, and assisting his father on the farm during the summer seasons. After leaving school he farmed in partnership until he purchased a farm of his own.

William D. Davis was married on September 14, 1892, to Blanche Martin, the daughter of James and Elizabeth (Goforth) Martin, and to this union have been born four children, Schuyler A., Wayne Denzil, Ai, and Zilpha, all of whom are living at home with their parents. Mrs. Davis was born in Audubon county, her father was born in Virginia and her mother was a native of Kentucky.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis are active and influential members of the Christian church, to the support of which they are liberal contributors. Mr. Davis is a Republican, and has served as a school director in his township. Throughout his life he has been interested in educational affairs, and has done what he could to raise the educational standard of the country schools. Mr. Davis has believed that these schools are the hope of the country, since upon them depends the education of the next generation.

WILLIAM ALT, JR.

William Alt, Jr., who owns a well-improved farm of two hundred and ten acres in Audubon township, Audubon county, Iowa, was born in Carroll county, Illinois, August 4, 1882, the son of William and Elizabeth (Lang) Alt, the former of whom was a native of Germany, and the latter of whom was a native of the state of Illinois. William Alt came to America when a mere lad and settled in Illinois, where he grew to manhood and where he married. He was a farmer and was engaged in this occupation during his entire life. In 1880 he removed to Audubon county, Iowa, and located in Hamlin township, where he purchased eighty acres of land, for which he paid eight dollars an acre. This land was raw prairie, and William Alt broke the sod for the first time on the tract, gradually improving his land, and adding to his original purchase from time to time until he was the owner of two hundred and eighty-four acres. He died in 1906, after having reared a family of ten children, nine of whom are still living. Philip, the eldest child, is deceased. Those living are Albert, William, George J., Nancy, Viola, Clara, Alma, May and Lena.

William Alt, Jr., having received his education in the public schools of Hamlin township, began farming after leaving school and was engaged in

this occupation with his father until twenty-three years of age, at which time the father died. William then worked for his mother on the home farm for two years, and after his marriage at the age of twenty-five, rented land for five years, when he purchased the place upon which he now lives, consisting of two hundred and ten acres. He has invested about three thousand dollars in various kinds of improvements on the farm, and his farm is one of the best in this section of the county. He raises annually fifty acres of corn and fifty acres of small grains, and feeds altogether one hundred head of hogs and twenty-five head of cattle.

On February 26, 1908, William Alt, Jr., was married to Nina Bell Hays, the daughter of F. Hays, and to this union two children have been born, a daughter, Ruth, and a son, William Raymond. Mrs. Alt's parents are living in Greeley township, Mr. and Mrs. Hays having been early settlers in that community. Mr. Hays is engaged in general farming and stock raising. Mrs. Alt is one of nine children, the others being Laura, Jennie, Mary, Winnie, Emma, Lee, Bert and Lennie.

William Alt, Jr., is an enterprising young farmer, a man who, although he has not yet reached the prime of life, has accumulated a considerable competence, and who is already established in his chosen vocation. Mr. and Mrs. Alt are popular socially in the neighborhood where they live and are highly respected as citizens of Audubon township.

JOHN E. WULF.

John E. Wulf is one of the promising young farmers of Exira township, Audubon county, Iowa. For several years Mr. Wulf was engaged with his father in farming. In fact, he has been managing the home farm ever since his father's retirement about 1900. He has had practical charge of the management of the home place until 1914, when he began farming for himself on one hundred and thirty acres of land in Exira township. Mr. Wulf is one of those farmers who fully appreciate the advantages of stock raising and he expects to feed practically all of his grain to hogs and cattle.

John E. Wulf was born on January 28, 1878, in Davenport, Iowa. His parents were William and Sophia (Herning) Wulf, both natives of Germany. William Wulf came to America when he was quite a young man, and after arriving in this country he located temporarily in Davenport,

Iowa, where he worked in a saw-mill most of the time. He also worked as a farm hand. He was married at Davenport and, in 1883, he removed to Audubon county, settling in Audubon township, where he rented land for five years. At the end of this period he purchased two hundred and forty acres of land in Exira township, and began farming for himself. Later he became an extensive stock raiser and farmer until about 1900, when he retired from active farm life. He is, however, still living on his farm in Exira township.

William and Sophia (Herning) Wulf were the parents of eight children, Carrie, Mattie, Minnie, Henry, William, Fred, John E. and George. Carrie and Mattie are unmarried and live at home. Minnie was the wife of Reuben Strothers, and is now deceased. Henry, William and Fred are unmarried. George married Katherine Killen.

John E. Wulf received his education in the public schools of Audubon and Exira townships, and after leaving school he took up farming pursuits with his father, assisting his father on the home farm until 1914, when he engaged in farming for himself on a farm of one hundred and thirty acres, where he carries on a general system of crop and stock raising, and makes a specialty of feeding his grain to hogs and cattle.

On February 18, 1914, John E. Wulf was married to Gertrude Killen, the daughter of Hobert and Margaret (Hengen) Killen. Gertrude Killen was born in Illinois, to which state her parents immigrated after their arrival in this country from Germany, where they were both born and reared. Her father worked as a farm hand in Illinois after settling there, and during the last two years of his residence in that state he rented land. In 1893 he came to Audubon county, Iowa, locating near Brayton, Iowa. Here he purchased a farm and operated it until 1902, when he sold out and returned to Illinois. Robert and Margaret (Hengen) Killen were the parents of eight children, Margaret, Kate, Gertrude, Barbara, Mamie, Chris, Peter and Anna, the last named being deceased. Kate is the wife of George Wulf, and Gertrude is the wife of John E. Wulf, with whom this narrative deals. The rest of the children are unmarried and living at home.

Mrs. Wulf is a member of the Catholic church. Mr. Wulf is not identified with any church. He is an advocate of the principles of the Republican party, but has not taken a very active part in politics, although deeply interested in all movements which have for their object the welfare and advancement of his township and community. Mr. Wulf is a promising young farmer who is really just beginning his career, and he is highly esteemed by all his neighbors.

JOSEPH GILMAN GILROY.

Joseph G. Gilroy is a farmer of Exira township, Audubon county, Iowa, where he is the owner of two hundred acres of fine farming land. Mr. Gilroy farmed with his father until 1902, when he took over the farm owned by his father. This farm is well situated and is highly productive and well improved. Mr. Gilroy has invested about five thousand dollars in improvements on the place since he purchased it.

Joseph Gilman Gilroy was born on November 12, 1868, in Exeter, New Hampshire, and is a son of Patrick and Anna (Connoly) Gilroy. Patrick Gilroy was a native of the Emerald Isle, as was his wife also. Patrick Gilroy came to America when he was fourteen years of age and located at Exeter, New Hampshire, and here he worked as a farm hand, and as an overseer on a large farm. He moved to Illinois in 1870, and located at Geneseo, in that state, where he was engaged in farming for eighteen years, at the expiration of which time he moved to Audubon county, Iowa, and purchased three hundred and sixty acres in Exira township. He was especially interested in stock raising, and made a considerable success of this business. He died on September 12, 1907. His wife had preceded him in death in 1894. They were both loyal and devout members of the Catholic church. They were the parents of two children besides Joseph G., Thomas L. and Mary Dorothy.

Joseph G. Gilroy was educated in the schools of Geneseo county, Illinois, and after leaving school he farmed with his father and accompanied the family when they moved to Iowa. In 1902 he took over his father's farm and has made a specialty of raising hogs and cattle for the markets, and has done general farming, raising all the crops common to this section of Iowa.

Joseph G. Gilroy was married on March 30, 1902, to Nellie M. Tracy, the daughter of John and Mary (Butler) Tracy, and to this union two children have been born, who are now living, Anna Laura and May Dorothy. Nellie M. Tracy was born in Henry county, Illinois. Her parents were natives of Ireland, who came to America when they were young. Her father located first in New York state, where he was employed on a farm. Subsequently he was a farmer in Canada, and after living there for about ten years, came back to the United States, and located in Illinois. In 1854, he purchased a farm in Illinois, where he lived until his death in 1891. His wife died on January 30, 1899. They were the parents of nine children, six of whom are living, Richard, Henry, John, Kate, Jennie and Mrs. Gilroy.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gilroy are members of the Catholic church, in which they take an active interest, and to the support of which they are liberal contributors. Mr. Gilroy is a Democrat, but has not taken an active part in political matters, owing to his extensive farming interests, which he gives all his time and attention. However, he is interested in all public movements which have for their object the advancement and welfare of his community, and is ranked among the earnest and enterprising men of his community.

GILBERT PETER NELSON.

Gilbert Peter Nelson is a farmer of Audubon county, Iowa, and owns two hundred and forty acres of land in Oakfield township. Mr. Nelson received a good education in the common schools and supplemented his training received there with a term in the Danish Lutheran College at Elkhorn, Iowa. He is an extensive raiser of cattle and hogs and is well known in Oakfield township.

Gilbert Peter Nelson was born in La Crosse, Wisconsin, September 18, 1867. His parents were Peter and Marie (Peterson) Nelson, natives of Denmark.

Peter Nelson was a carpenter in his native land, and followed this trade until twenty years of age, when he came to America. He located in Michigan and worked in the pineries of that state for a short time. After a time he removed to Chicago, and was employed in constructing the first union stock yards in Chicago. After working in Chicago for some time, he removed to La Crosse, Wisconsin, and worked at his trade in that city. The elder Mr. Nelson followed the carpenter's trade until 1870, when he removed to Cass county, Iowa. Here he bought forty acres of land at eleven dollars an acre. He sold this farm at the end of eight years, and purchased a hundred and sixty acres in Audubon county, which he farmed until 1908. At that time he retired. He is now living with his daughter, Mrs. Harry Traum. The elder Mr. Nelson increased his farm holdings until he owned eight hundred acres of land. When he came to Michigan he had only fifteen dollars.

Peter and Marie (Peterson) Nelson were the parents of twelve children, ten of whom are living, as follow: Gilbert P., the subject of this sketch; John C., a farmer in Oakfield township; Julius, lives in Cass county; Edward, lives in Oakfield township; Ludwick, lives at Atlantic; Alma, married Harry

Traum and lives in Oakfield township; Alfred; Christina, married Evans Markenson, of Audubon; Rosa, lives in Audubon; and Martha, also lives in Audubon.

Gilbert Peter Nelson received his education principally in Audubon county, and after completing the course here he attended the Danish Lutheran College at Elkhorn for a term. He was married at the age of twenty-six years, and after renting land for one year, he bought one hundred and twenty acres of land. Gradually he has increased his holdings to two hundred and forty acres. He raises sixty acres of corn, and feeds about fifty head of hogs a year.

Gilbert Peter Nelson was married on March 3, 1894, to Anna Christina Nelson, daughter of L. P. and Marie (Peterson) Nelson. Seven children have been born to this marriage, Theodore H., Gerald, Ernest, Gladys, Lela, Ethel and Edna. Mrs. Nelson was born in Des Moines, Iowa. Her parents were natives of Denmark. Her father came to America and located in Des Moines, where he remained for five years. They had nine children, Anna, Rosa, Hans, Ida, Martha, Marie, Ray, Arthur and Albert.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson are members of the Danish Lutheran church. In politics Mr. Nelson is a Republican.

CHRIS ROED.

The compulsory military service of many European countries has driven young men, who dislike to perform that service, to America. Many young men, during the period of their service, have become so thoroughly discouraged with the European militarism that they have come to America immediately after serving their enlistment. Chris Roed, a prominent farmer of Exira township, and the owner of two hundred and forty acres of land in that township, came to this country in 1884, immediately after having served one year in the Danish army.

Chris Roed was born on March 16, 1859, in Denmark. His parents were Chris and Carrie (Christensen) Roed, both natives of Denmark. The former was a farmer and farmed there all of his life. He served in the Danish-Prussian War of 1848. Mrs. Roed, the mother of Chris, Jr., died in 1910. She and her husband had eight children, seven of whom are now living: Anna, Lars, Jens, Peter, Jens, Stena, Elizabeth and Chris. All of them are now living in Denmark except Chris, the subject of this sketch.

Chris Roed was educated in Denmark and after leaving school, worked for his father on the farm. Coming to America in 1884, he located at Audubon county, where he worked as a farm hand for two years. Mr. Roed then traveled through Nebraska and Minnesota, doing farm work. In 1890 he returned to Iowa and after his marriage, located in Atlantic, where he worked for three years. He again went to Nebraska and there rented a farm and farmed for two years. At the end of this period, he returned to Audubon county, and, in 1894, rented a farm for three years. After this he bought a farm of one hundred and five acres in Hamlin township and farmed that for five years. He then bought the farm where he now lives, in Exira township, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, later he added eighty acres, making two hundred and forty acres; a farm upon which Mr. Roed has placed improvements amounting to more than five thousand dollars. Mr. Roed raises eighty acres of corn every year and seventy acres of small grain. He feeds between seventy-five and one hundred head of hogs each year.

Chris Roed was married on April 26, 1890, to Mary Hansen, the daughter of Anders and Christina (Hansen) Hansen. To this union four children have been born: Anna, Elmer, Martin and Henry, all of whom are unmarried and live at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Roed attend the Danish Lutheran church. Mr. Roed has served as school director, a non-partisan position in this section. Mr. Roed is an independent voter.

CALVIN I. DIMICK.

Calvin I. Dimick is a well-known farmer of Exira township, who not only owns one hundred and ninety-four acres of land in Exira township, but who owns a quarter section of land in Canada. Mr. Dimick has not followed farming all of his life. For some time he was engaged in ditching in Nebraska, Colorado and Kansas. He was also engaged in conducting a hotel at Brayton for some time, but eventually returned to the farm.

Calvin I. Dimick was born on December 3, 1867, in Johnson county, Iowa. His parents were John J. and Fannie (Mitchell) Dimick, both natives of Erie county, New York. The former was born on January 5, 1825, and the latter was born on March 31, 1837. John J. Dimick grew to manhood in Erie county and lived on a farm there. Before his marriage, he made a trip to California during the gold discoveries of 1849 and 1850, and was

fairly successful. After three years he moved to Wisconsin and remained there until 1858, when he moved to Johnson county, Iowa. While in Wisconsin, he conducted a hotel. He first purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Johnson county and increased his holdings by one-half. Eventually he engaged in the lumber and stock business and was in that business for five years when he sold out. He came to Audubon county in March, 1881. He located four miles northwest of Exira, where he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres and there he was engaged in general farming until 1901, when he moved to Exira and took up cattle buying. He followed this business until his death in 1910. His wife had died many years previously, March 1, 1879.

John G. and Fannie (Mitchell) Dimick were the parents of ten children, eight of whom are now living, namely: George G., lives in Hamlin township; Elvira, lives in Syracuse, New York; Horace, deceased; Mary, married Edward Dryden, of Hamlin township; Calvin I., the subject of this sketch; Julia, married W. M. Cress, of Hamlin township; Jessie and Ella, live at Boone, Iowa; John M., a stock buyer at Exira, and an infant deceased.

Calvin I. Dimick received his education in Johnson county and after leaving school, took up farming on his father's place. He remained on the farm until he was twenty years old and then engaged in ditching land in Nebraska, Colorado and Kansas, which occupation he followed for three years. He then moved to Audubon county, and, after a time, began farming on eighty acres of land which he had purchased. He fenced and drained this land and improved it otherwise and lived on it for about six years. After a time he moved to Brayton and there purchased a hotel which he operated for a short time. He then bought the place upon which he now lives. Mr. Dimick raises seventy-five acres of corn and approximately one hundred acres of small grains. He feeds about sixty head of hogs every year and has been very successful with mixed farming.

On November 15, 1892, Calvin I. Dimick was married to Eva J. Beers, the daughter of David and Lola (Lacy) Beers. Four children have been born to this marriage: Harry Russell, Kathleen, Mildred and Mozelle. David Beers was a native of New York state and one of the first settlers in Audubon county, having come overland to this county. David and Lola (Lacy) Beers were the parents of three children, as follow: Eva J., Nellie, married Samuel Budd, of Atlantic, Iowa; and Lona (deceased), married Nora Lyons.

Mr. Dimick is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He has served as township supervisor for a number of years and is an ardent and enthusiastic Democrat.

CHRIS C. PETERSEN.

It is no small accomplishment to have immigrated to a foreign land and to one where the customs, manners and speech are unfamiliar, to have provided one's self with a splendid education in the schools of the adopted country and to have become the owner of ninety-four acres of land in the comparatively short period of twenty years. Yet this is what Chris C. Petersen, a farmer of Exira township, Audubon county, has accomplished in that length of time.

Chris C. Petersen was born in Denmark, January 16, 1876. He is not yet forty years old, yet he has made wonderful progress in his adopted country. Mr. Petersen's father and mother are K. S. and Carrie (Swentzen) Petersen. Chris C. was educated at first in Denmark and after leaving school there, he worked as a farm hand for three years. When he was nineteen years old, he came to America, arriving in this country in 1895. He located at Elkhorn, Iowa, and after working at various positions for some time, he entered the Danish Lutheran College at Elkhorn, where he pursued his education. From the Danish Lutheran College at Elkhorn, Mr. Peterson went to Avoca, Iowa, and after living in Avoca for fifteen months and doing various work, he rented a farm. After this he purchased the farm on which he now lives. It is located in Exira township. Mr. Petersen has invested twenty-five hundred dollars in improvements upon the place. He raises about thirty-five acres of corn each year and sells from the farm approximately seventy-five head of hogs. Mixed farming has proved to be very profitable to him, especially as he has been able to raise live stock in connection with various grains.

Chris C. Petersen was married on October 22, 1898, to Lena Jessen, the daughter of Peter and Mary Jessen. To this union four children have been born, Marn, Hilda, Kate and Ruby, all of whom are living at home.

Mrs. Petersen was born in Germany and her parents were also natives of that country. They came to America in 1893, and located near Elkhorn, where they lived on a farm for one year. They then moved to Exira township and lived on a farm in this township until 1904, when they retired and moved to Exira. Mrs. Jessen died in July, 1914. Peter and Mary Jessen were the parents of nine children: Marten, Jens, Peter M., Chris, Andrew, Niss, Mary, Kate and Lena, all of whom are living. Mr. Jessen is still living in Exira.

Chris C. Petersen is an independent voter. Mr. and Mrs. Petersen are members of the Danish Lutheran church and active in the affairs of this denomination.

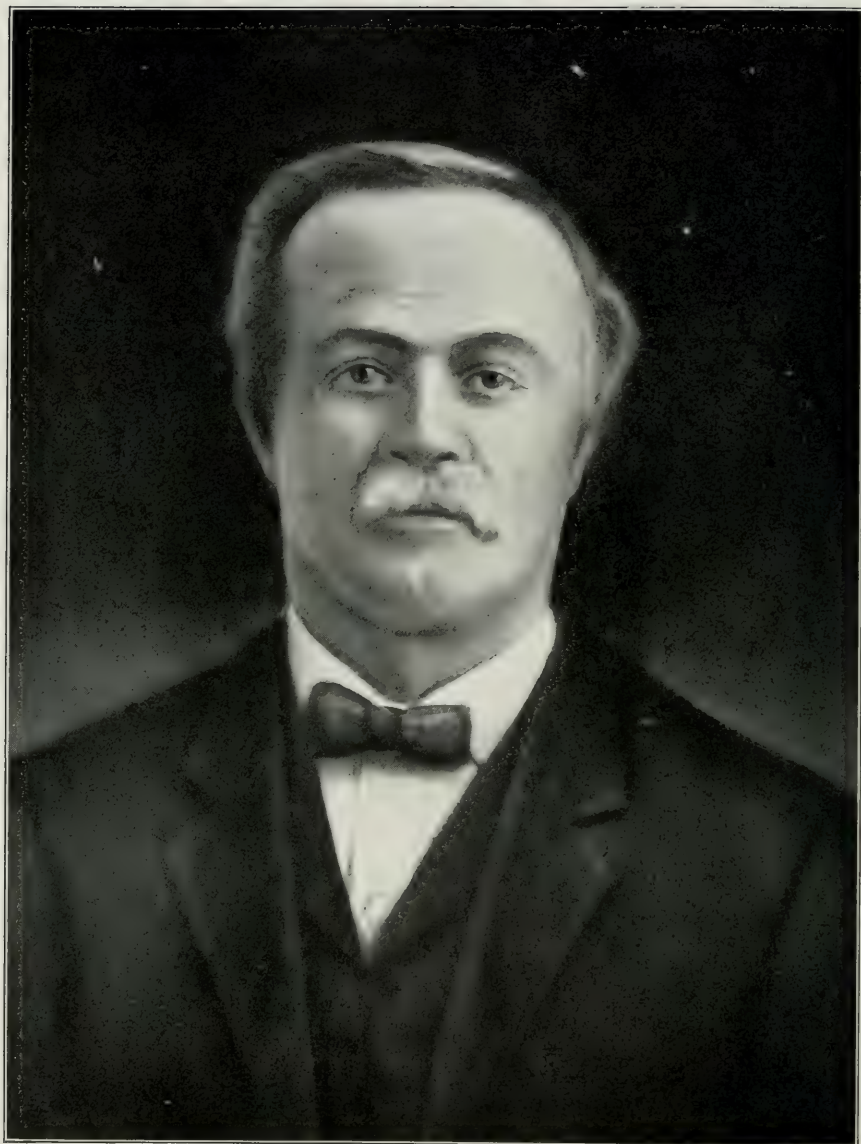
DANIEL D. SAMPSON.

One of the influential citizens of Audubon county, Iowa, is the gentleman to whose career the attention of the reader is now directed. Daniel D. Sampson, an enterprising and successful farmer of Viola township, Audubon county, Iowa, is ranked with the leading farmers of this township and county. He is a man of excellent endowment and upright character and has been a valued factor in local affairs. Throughout his life he has commanded the unequivocal confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens, and has been loyal to the upbuilding of the community in which he lives. He has been and is ever vigilant in his efforts to further the interests of Audubon county. Mr. Sampson is just completing a term as a county supervisor, to which important office he was elected in 1910 and the duties of which he assumed in 1911. As a county supervisor, Mr. Sampson's administration has been creditable to himself and satisfactory to the people of Audubon county.

Daniel D. Sampson was born, May 4, 1852, in Iowa county, Wisconsin, and is a well-known farmer of Viola township, who now farms three hundred and thirty acres in this township, although at one time he owned six hundred and fifty acres. He has resided in Viola township for thirty-five years. Mr. Sampson is the son of Henry and Elizabeth (Baker) Sampson, natives of England, where they were born and reared. Henry Sampson was born in 1815 and came to America early in life, arriving here in 1842. His wife, Elizabeth Baker, came in 1842 also, and they were married in Wisconsin. Henry Sampson died in Wisconsin in 1893 and his wife in 1863. They were the parents of four children, Francis, Cyrus, who lives in Audubon; Daniel and John.

Daniel D. Sampson came to Audubon county in 1879 and located on a farm. He lived with his brother and worked land which he had previously bought. He purchased one hundred acres at ten dollars an acre and, subsequently, in 1880, purchased sixty acres at ten dollars an acre. During the succeeding years, Mr. Sampson bought additional land, paying from ten dollars to sixty-two and one-half dollars an acre. As he acquired the land, he planted trees upon it, erected buildings and otherwise improved his holdings. During his entire life, he has been engaged in raising stock and has always been successful. He still sells fifty head of cattle and more than one hundred head of hogs every year. Mr. Sampson at one time owned six hundred and fifty acres of land. He gave to each of his three sons eighty acres of land and his daughter a like quantity, and they have all been quite successful.

Daniel Sampson was married on December 15, 1882, to Anna Neff, the



DANIEL D. SAMPSON



CHILDREN OF DANIEL D. SAMPSON

daughter of George Neff. Mrs. Sampson was born in Pennsylvania in 1864. Mr. and Mrs. Sampson have been the parents of four children, Allie, the wife of Harley Emley; Allen, who is a farmer and lives at home; John, a farmer; and Wilbur, who is also a farmer and married Myrtle Callow and has one son, William Daniel.

John Sampson, who is farming in Viola township, and who owns eighty acres of land in section 33, given to him by his father, was born December 6, 1888, in Viola township, and is the son of Daniel D. Sampson, the subject of this sketch, who has lived in this township since 1878. John Sampson was educated in district school No. 8, of Viola township; he also spent six months in the schools of Audubon. He has always lived on the farm where he now resides. Mr. Sampson is a Republican and, religiously, he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Although he owns eighty acres, he is farming one hundred and sixty acres. He built a new bungalow in 1909 and erected a new barn in the fall of 1912. John Sampson was married on December 31, 1909, to Bessie Ruth Edwards, the daughter of J. M. Edwards, of Melville township.

Daniel D. Sampson is a Republican in politics. He was elected county supervisor in the fall of 1910. He took office on January 1, 1911, and is now serving the last year of his term. Religiously, Mr. Sampson is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Few men living in Viola township are more highly respected than Daniel D. Sampson and few men living in Audubon county are better known than he.

CHRIS PETERSEN.

A representative of the second generation of his family in America, Chris Petersen is a son of Jens and Thomine (Christensen) Petersen, who came to this country from Denmark in 1890, locating temporarily in Brayton, Iowa. They owned a small farm in Denmark, and this they cultivated until they came to America, when the farm was sold. After living in Brayton, Iowa, for one winter, the parents rented a farm the next spring, and then purchased eighty acres in Oakfield township. The father was engaged in farming until his death on April 10, 1909.

Chris Petersen, who was born on December 4, 1872, in Denmark, is one of eight children born to his parents, Jens and Thomine (Christensen)

Petersen. The others are as follow: Mary, Peter C., Stena, Sena, Thomas, Lena and Hannah. Hannah is the youngest of the family.

Educated in the common schools of his native land, Chris Petersen came to America with his parents in 1890. During the first two years of his residence in America he worked on various farms, and finally with his father. Before his father's death, Chris purchased the farm of eighty acres. He has made commendable progress in his life's vocation. The farm was purchased nine years before the death of Jens Petersen, or in 1900. Chris Petersen ordinarily feeds out about fifty head of hogs every year, and sometimes a few cattle. He has invested about two thousand dollars on his farm since purchasing it.

On November 29, 1901, Chris Petersen was married to Mary Petersen, and they have had six children, Albert, Henry, Harold, Esther, Emma and Clara, all of whom are living at home with their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Petersen and family are members of the Danish Lutheran church, and Mr. Petersen is a prominent member of the Danish Brotherhood. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. A Democrat in politics, he has served as school director in Oakfield township, and has filled this office with credit to himself and to the people of the township. A man who has been honorable and upright in all of the relations of life, he well deserves the confidence and esteem of his neighbors, which as a matter of fact he very generally enjoys. He is cordial, dependable and frugal in his daily living, a combination of traits which have made him a good man and a good citizen.

SOREN P. DAUGARD.

One of the highly-respected farmers and citizens, who is now living retired on his farm in Oakfield township, is Soren P. Daugard, who owns a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in this township and also one hundred and sixty acres in South Dakota. Born on May 19, 1857, in Denmark, Soren P. Daugard is the son of Swenton and Christena (Birk) Daugard, the former a native of Sweden and the latter a native of Denmark. Swenton Daugard, a farmer by occupation, lived upon a farm in Denmark until he came to America in 1887, after which he lived retired with his children until his death. His wife is also deceased. They had six children: Soren P., Dorothy, Ellen, Hans, Anna and Anna Marie. The father was a veteran of the Danish-Prussian War.

Soren P. Daugard came to America seven years before his parents. Before coming to this country he had been in school for some time, and after leaving school had learned the blacksmith's trade, having worked in a shop from the time he reached maturity until he came to America. Upon coming to this country in 1880, he located on the farm where he now lives, purchasing at first forty acres of land, which he has gradually increased to one hundred and twenty acres. During the active period of his career, he was engaged in general farming and stock raising, but is now living retired on the farm.

In 1880, the same year in which he came to America, Soren P. Daugard was married to Anna Knus, the daughter of Chris and Anna Margaret (Ivisen) Knus. Nine children have been born to this marriage: Margaret, Christen, John, Fred, Henry, Theodore, Christena, Mary and Serena. Only one of the children, Margaret, is married. She married John C. Larsen and has five children: Soren, Louis, Anna, Catherine and John. The remainder of the children are living at home and are unmarried. The mother of these children is a native of Germany, as were her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Soren P. Daugard are members of the Danish Lutheran church, and Mr. Daugard is a trustee of the church. A Republican in politics, the only office which he has ever held is that of school director, an office, however, he filled with rare efficiency.

Mr. Daugard is a man of modest and unassuming manners, who has lived a quiet life and enjoyed a satisfactory measure of success. He is comfortably situated and is well prepared to enjoy his declining years in ease and comfort.

NELS C. JENSEN.

Nels C. Jensen, a very successful farmer of Oakfield township, who owns a farm of two hundred acres, was born in Denmark, February 26, 1862, and is the son of Jens P. and Mary K. (Lostetter) Jensen, both of whom were natives of Denmark. The former was a farmer in his native land and, after coming to America, followed this occupation. After coming to this country, he located in Shelby county, Iowa, temporarily, where he rented a farm for one year. He then moved to Audubon county and purchased eighty acres of land and farmed until his death in 1900. He was a veteran of the Danish War of 1848. Jens P. and Mary K. Jensen were

the parents of four children: Nels C., Jens L. and two who died in infancy. After the death of the mother of these children, Jens P. Jensen married Mary Sophia Nelson and to this union there have been born six children: Hettie, Charles, John, Chris, Sophus and Petrea.

After completing a limited educational course in the schools of his native land, Nels C. Jensen worked for a short time on a farm in Denmark, his wages being thirty dollars a year. He then came to America. Settling first in Shelby county, Iowa, he worked as a farm hand for one year and then moved to Audubon county and worked as a farm hand until his marriage. After his marriage, Mr. Jensen rented a farm and farmed for himself for one year, after which he purchased eighty acres of land which constituted the nucleus of the two-hundred-acre farm he now owns, and on which he lives. Here he has invested about ten thousand dollars in various kinds of improvements, including a residence which is thoroughly modern, and outbuildings, drains and fences. Ordinarily, he raises seventy acres of corn a year and thirty acres of small grain, feeding one hundred and fifty head of hogs a year and milking twenty head of cows. Mr. Jensen raises only purebred Poland China hogs and has won many prizes at state and county fairs.

On December 27, 1886, Nels C. Jensen was married to Anna K. Peterson, and to them have been born eight children: Mary, Marten, Arthur (deceased), Lawrence, John, Clarence, Daisy and Elmer. Mary married Peter Jacobsen and has one child, Alice. Lawrence married Dorothy Madson.

Anna K. Peterson was a daughter of Peter and Mary (Jurgersen) Peterson, both natives of Denmark.

Mr. and Mrs. Nels C. Jensen and family are members of the Seventh Day Adventist church. In politics Mr. Jensen is a Republican and the only offices which he has held are those of school director and road supervisor.

Nels C. Jensen has always taken an active interest in public affairs and public movements and his support in behalf of worthy public enterprises can always be depended upon by the people of his community. Popular with his neighbors and fellow citizens, he has never had an ax to grind with anyone, but has gone on from year to year diligently in his own business and paying strict attention to his own affairs. He has done worthily his part to transform the raw prairie of Audubon county into farms which produce the good things of life.

HANS A. NELSON.

Hans A. Nelson is a successful farmer of Exira township, who owns one hundred and sixty acres of land. Mr. Nelson is a native of Iowa, having been born on November 28, 1877. Although most of Mr. Nelson's life has been devoted to farming, during a part of it he was engaged in business at Exira. Not finding the business to his liking, Mr. Nelson traded his business interests for the farm he now owns.

Hans A. Nelson is a son of L. P. and Mary (Peterson) Nelson, both natives of Denmark. L. P. Nelson was a farmer in his native land and came to this country before his marriage. He traveled over the country for a few years and then located at Des Moines, where he worked in a brick yard. In 1878 he moved to Elkhorn, Iowa, and bought a farm near there which he operated for two years. He then moved to Audubon county and located three miles west of Exira, Iowa. Here he is now living, although he is retired. He is a prominent member of the Danish Lutheran church. L. P. and Mary Nelson were married in 1864. They had nine children: Anna, Rosa, Hans A., Ida, Martha, Mary, Ray, Arthur and Albert. Anna married Gilbert Nelson. Rosa became the wife of John Nelson and lives southwest of Brayton. Ida is the wife of Soren Nelson. Martha married T. M. Rasmussen. Mary is single and lives at home. Ray married Agnes Nelson. Arthur married Emma Hanson. Albert is single.

Hans A. Nelson attended school in Audubon county and after leaving school farmed with his father until he was twenty-seven years old. He then sold eighty acres of land which he had previously bought and moved to Cass county, Iowa, where he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land and farmed there for four years. He then moved back to Exira and engaged in the implement business for one year. He traded this business for the farm which he now owns.

On March 20, 1902, Hans A. Nelson was married to Susie Huyck, the daughter of George and Sarah (Rudge) Huyck. To this marriage five children have been born, Garland, Ava, Vera, Floyd and Marjorie. Mrs. Nelson was born in Exira. Her father was a native of Indiana and her mother of England. Her father grew to manhood in Indiana and was twenty years old when he came to Iowa, since which time he has farmed, but at the present time lives in Exira. George and Sarah (Rudge) Huyck were the parents of six children: Roxie, Hattie, Susie, Charles, Grace and James. Roxie married Roscoe Clark. Hattie, who is deceased, was the

wife of Charles McCord. Charles is unmarried and lives in Wyoming. Grace became the wife of Alfred Esbeck. James married Hattie Struthers.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson are members of the Christian church. They are both prominent and influential in this church. Mr. Nelson is a trustee. Mr. Nelson generally votes the Republican ticket, but is not especially active in politics. The only office which he has held is that of road supervisor of Oakfield township. Mr. Nelson has never had any ambition to hold office, but has been devoted to his business and his family.

JOHN W. MARTIN.

John W. Martin, the proprietor of a farm of one hundred and fifty-two acres in Audubon township, Audubon county, Iowa, was born on November 9, 1855, in Johnson county, Iowa, the son of James and Elizabeth (Goforth) Martin, the former a native of Virginia, and the latter a native of Kentucky. James Martin came to Johnson county, Iowa, when a young man, and after farming for some time with his father, learned the stone-mason's trade, which vocation he followed until his marriage. In 1869, the family moved to Audubon county, locating in Audubon township, where Mr. Martin purchased forty acres of land. Subsequently he added one hundred and twenty acres to his land holdings, and on this large farm he was engaged in general farming and stock raising, besides which Mr. Martin worked at his trade as stone-mason until 1904, when he retired from active life and moved to Exira. James and Elizabeth (Goforth) Martin were the parents of eight children, of whom John W., the subject of this sketch, was the eldest, the others being Bruce, George, Blanche, Jesse, Winifred, Rodney and Lula, the last named being deceased.

John W. Martin, after completing his education in the public schools of Audubon county, farmed with his father until he reached his majority. He then worked out on neighboring farms for three or four years, after which he purchased eighty acres of land, and by dint of industry and careful management, gradually increased his land holdings to one hundred and fifty-two acres. He has invested about three thousand dollars in various kinds of improvements on his farm, and has brought it to a high state of cultivation. He ordinarily raises about sixty-five acres of corn, forty acres of small grains, and feeds out forty head of hogs annually. Mr. Martin sells a part of the grain raised on his farm.

John W. Martin was married to Minnie Littlefield, the daughter of Alonzo F. and Sarah Littlefield, and to this union have been born five children, Elizabeth, Cecil, Basil, Kermit and Cassius. Minnie Littlefield was born in Madison county, Iowa, her parents having come to this state in pioneer times and settled in the western part of Audubon county, where her father was a prominent farmer and stock breeder. Alonzo F. and Sarah Littlefield were the parents of twelve children, all of whom except one are living, as follow: Thomas, Maggie, Mrs. Minnie Martin, Anna, Charles, John, William, Foley, Ernie, Nell, Roy and Alice deceased.

Mr. Martin has always been identified with the Democratic party and is the present township trustee of Audubon township. He is a member of the Yeomen. Not only is John W. Martin prominent as a farmer of this township, but he is likewise one of the leaders in the educational and civic life of the community. As a farmer and citizen he is highly respected for his honorable and cordial relations with his fellow men.

NELS P. ANDERSEN.

Nels P. Andersen, farmer and stockman of Oakfield township, Audubon county, Iowa, who owns a hundred and twenty acre farm in Oakfield township, was born in Denmark, July 23, 1863, the son of Anders and Kearstin (Nelson) Olsen, both of whom were Danish born. The father was a miller in his native land, and also operated a bakery until he came to America in 1894. After living at various places in this country, the family finally settled in Audubon county, Iowa, and there they remained until Mr. Olsen's death in 1906. Anders and Kearstin Olsen were the parents of ten children, eight of whom are now living, as follow: Chris, Helen, Christena, Mary, Nels J., Nora, Hans and Sena. The two eldest children, Chris and Helen, and the fourth child, Mary, are still living in their native land.

Nels P. Andersen was the first of the family to come to America. After finishing his education in the schools of his native land, he worked for a short time in his father's flour-mill, but in 1884, at the age of twenty-one, he came to this country and worked for four years as a laborer at Green Bay, Wisconsin. Removing then to Clinton county, Iowa, he worked five years as a farm hand, and then rented land for six years. In 1900 he removed to Audubon county and purchased eighty acres of land, to which

he subsequently added forty acres, upon which he is now living. He raises an average of forty acres of corn and twenty acres of small grain every year, feeding fifty head of hogs and a few cattle.

On December 10, 1898, Nels P. Andersen was married to Carrie Anderson, the daughter of Anders and Catherine Anderson. Mr. and Mrs. Nels P. Andersen have had three children, Hans, Metta and Lydia, all of whom are living at home with their parents.

Carrie Anderson was a native of Denmark, as were her parents before her. Her father, a farmer and laborer by occupation, died in his native land, and her mother is still living there. Anders and Catherine Anderson were the parents of six children, as follow: Anders; Annie, who married a Mr. Anderson; Peter, Julia, Sena and Carrie. One of these children is deceased. The living children are all residents of this country.

Mr. and Mrs. Nels P. Andersen are members of the Danish Lutheran church. Mr. Andersen is a Democrat in politics, and a member of the Danish school board. He is also a member of the Danish Brotherhood.

Mr. Andersen has enjoyed reasonable success as a farmer, stock raiser, and during his comparatively brief residence in Audubon county has managed to establish a comfortable home and acquire a splendid farm. He is industrious, foresighted and honorable in the relations of life, a very worthy citizen of Oakfield township.

GEORGE JESSEN, JR.

George Jessen, Jr., a farmer of Oakfield township, Audubon county, Iowa, the son of a veteran of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, was born on October 22, 1878, in Schleswig, Germany. His parents, George and Elizabeth (Christensen) Jessen, after coming to America in 1881, located at Atlantic, Iowa, where the father worked on the railroad for two years, and then moved to Audubon county, locating upon the farm where his son, George, now lives. He began with a small tract of land and gradually increased his holdings until he owned six hundred and forty acres of fine farming land. Although he had very little when he came to this country, by earnest and unceasing toil, by careful management and frugal living, he has come to be very prosperous as a farmer and stockman. George and Elizabeth (Christensen) Jessen were the parents of four children, Chris, Mary, George and Theodore.

Educated in the public schools of Oakfield township, Audubon county, George Jessen, after leaving school, farmed with his father until twenty-eight years old, when he rented the farm upon which he now lives, and where he has remained since that time. Mr. Jessen raises on an average eighty acres of corn, eighty acres of small grain, and feeds most of the grain raised to live stock. He sells about one hundred and twenty-five head of hogs every year and three carloads of cattle. He is well known in this township as a breeder of Shorthorn cattle, and has been extensively engaged in this business for a number of years. Approximately ten thousand dollars has been invested in various kinds of improvements upon this farm, and it is one of the highly productive farms of the township.

On July 8, 1900, George Jessen, Jr., was married to Bertha Marie Jessen, the daughter of Klaus Jensen. Bertha Marie Jensen was a native of Denmark, as were her parents. To Mr. and Mrs. Jessen have been born six children, George, Nannie, Clara, Theodore, Bertha and Alice, all of whom are living at home with their parents.

George Jessen, Jr., is not identified with any particular political party. He is an independent voter, and has little faith in the platforms of political parties or the pledges of party candidates. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and also of the Danish Brotherhood. Mr. Jessen has always been deeply interested in the civic life of his township, and has filled the position of school director and also that of a member of the school board of his township, and discharged the duties of these offices to the entire satisfaction of the community which he served.

Mr. Jessen is a man who uses only the most improved modern methods in his farming operations, and has been very successful in his chosen vocation. He is a popular young citizen of Oakfield township, and already is recognized as having made a good start in life.

JOHN N. ESBECK.

A prominent farmer and an influential citizen of Exira township, and a native of the little kingdom of Denmark, is John N. Esbeck, who owns one hundred and forty-five acres of land in Exira township, and who was born in Denmark on July 29, 1867, the son of Chris N. and Catherine (Mortensen) Esbeck, both natives of Denmark. The former was a farmer in his native land, and came to the United States in 1868, one year after

the birth of John N. Chris Esbeck located first in Illinois after arriving in America, but only lived in that state for one year, when he removed to Guthrie county, Iowa, where he was employed on the Rock Island railroad, helping to construct the road from the east through to Council Bluffs, Iowa. In 1873, he removed to Missouri, where he was engaged in railroading, and in 1881 he came to Audubon county, and after locating in Oakfield township, purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, and farmed in this township until his death in 1888. His wife died in 1887, after having reared a family of ten children, three of whom are living, Mary, Alfred and John N. Mary is the wife of Jens P. Hanson. Alfred married Grace Huyck.

Educated in the public schools of the state of Missouri, John N. Esbeck removed to Audubon county with his parents about the time he finished school, and engaged in farming with his father until he was twenty years of age. Beginning at the age of twenty years, he worked in the implement business at Kimballton, Iowa, for four years, after which he purchased eighty acres of land in Oakfield township, where he farmed for five years. Disposing of his farm in Oakfield township, he purchased one hundred and twenty acres in Douglas township, and farmed there for about eleven years, when he again sold out and purchased the place upon which he now lives. Since acquiring possession of this farm in 1910, Mr. Esbeck has invested about six thousand dollars in buildings, fences, drains and other forms of improvement on the farm. He raises on an average of fifty acres of corn, thirty acres of small grains and feeds out fifty head of hogs each year.

On March 22, 1895, John N. Esbeck was married to Ingeborg Nissen, the daughter of Nis and Johanna Nissen, and to this union have been born six children, Edna, Esther, Catherine, Lela, Agnes and Arnold, all of whom are living at home with their parents.

A charter member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Kimballton, Iowa, Mr. Esbeck has been prominent in this organization. He and his wife and family are earnest and faithful members of the Danish Lutheran church. A Republican in politics, he has served as assessor of Oakfield township for four years, as township clerk of Douglas township for seven years, and also as a school director at various places. As one of the leading citizens and farmers of Exira township, Mr. Esbeck is known to be keenly interested in educational affairs, and in the public positions which he has held, he has acquitted himself with credit, and has won honor by his efficient service. He is known to be honorable and straightforward in all of the private relations of life.

HANS NYMAND.

A successful farmer of Oakfield township, Audubon county, Iowa, and one who owns two hundred and twenty-seven acres of fine farming land, Hans Nymand was born on February 9, 1862, in Schleswig, Germany, the son of Hans and Katherine (Miller) Nymand, both natives of Schleswig, Germany. Hans Nymand, Sr., was a farmer by occupation and owned eighty acres of land in his native country. Of his ten children, six, Jesse, Chris, Christina, Mettie Marie, Mary and Hans, are still living.

Hans Nymand, the immediate subject of this sketch, who has become a prosperous farmer in this country and a leader in public thought in the community where he lives, worked as a farm hand, mostly with his father, after leaving school. In 1881 he came to America, and after locating in Audubon county, worked as a farm laborer for one year, after which he rented the place where he is now living. After renting for one year he purchased one hundred and twenty acres, and has since increased his land holdings until he now owns two hundred and twenty-seven acres. Mr. Nymand has invested about seventy-five hundred dollars in improvements on his farm, which consist principally of out-buildings, fences and drainage. He feeds about one hundred head of hogs every year, and raises a good grade of live stock of all kinds. Ordinarily he raises forty acres of corn and thirty acres of small grain. On the farm where he lives he has built two large silos, which hold one hundred and sixty tons of ensilage.

On March 7, 1883, Hans Nymand was married to Mary Knudson, the daughter of Knud and Caroline Knudson, and to this union have been born three children, Harry, Walter and Ella. Harry married Nannie Nelson, and they have two children, Olivia and Imo. Walter and Ella are unmarried and are still living at home with their parents.

Mary Knudson was a native of Denmark, as were her parents before her. They came to America in 1873 and located at Atlantic, Iowa, and here her father worked as a section hand on the railroad for one year. He then removed to Audubon county and purchased eighty acres of land and began farming for himself. Mrs. Nymand's father and mother are now deceased. Of their children four are still living, Chris, Peter, Carolina and Mrs. Mary Nymand.

Mr. and Mrs. Hans Nymand and family are faithful and earnest members of the Danish Lutheran church, and take a great interest in the welfare of this congregation. A Democrat in politics, he has served as assessor of Oakfield township, and was also a school director. He is a member of

the Danish Brotherhood, in which he formerly served as president and secretary of the lodge. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and in the last named lodge he has filled all the chairs and is now a past grand.

Hans Nymand is not only a good farmer, but he is a good citizen, intelligent, progressive, broad-minded, courteous and considerate of the rights of others, and naturally he is well liked in the neighborhood and is popular in religious and fraternal circles in this township.

WILLIAM AND HENRY ONKEN.

William and Henry Onken, well-known farmers of Oakfield township and sons of the late George Onken, are at present managing their father's farm of two hundred acres in Oakfield township, and have made a very commendable success of farming.

William and Henry Onken are sons of George Onken, who died on October 27, 1913. He was the son of Hoegh and Mary Onken, natives of Germany, who lived and died in their native land, where they were farmers. Upon coming to America, George Onken first located at Marne, Iowa, where he remained with his uncle on a farm for two years. Coming to Audubon county in 1873, he purchased two hundred and eighty acres of land on Buck creek and was engaged in farming there for sixteen years, when he sold out and purchased two hundred acres near Brayton. Here he farmed until two years before his death, when he moved to Brayton and lived retired. George Onken and his wife had nine children: Mary, Anna, Amolia, Bertha, William, Henry, Kate, Fred and Lillie. William was born on October 12, 1883, and Henry was born on October 28, 1885. Several of the children are now married. The late George Onken was a member of the Baptist church. A Democrat in politics, he held several minor offices, such as road supervisor and school director. He was also president of Oakfield cry.

Educated in the public schools of Oakfield township, Audubon county, William and Henry Onken worked with their father on the farm until his retirement and removal to Brayton. At this time, they took charge of the farm and have been managing it since that time. They raise on an average of seventy-five acres of corn and thirty acres of small grain every year, and feed out one hundred head of hogs. William and Henry Onken are

known among the most progressive and up-to-date farmers in Oakfield township.

On November 18, 1908, William Onken was married to Anna Anderson, the daughter of Jesse and Lena Anderson. They have two children, Walter and Ethel.

On April 30, 1914, Henry Onken was married to Lena Anderson, also the daughter of Jesse and Lena Anderson. The wives of these two brothers are sisters.

Both families are members of the German Lutheran church. William and Henry Onken are Democrats in politics. They are well-known young farmers of Oakfield township, and, being well advised and well informed with regard to modern agricultural methods, their advice and counsel is freely sought by other farmers of Oakfield township. William and Henry Onken are popular in the neighborhood where they live.

PETER KNUDSEN.

Peter Knudsen, who purchased and now owns the fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Oakfield township, which his father before him owned, was born on January 28, 1866, in Denmark, the son of Knud C. and Caroline (Phillipson) Knudsen. A farmer in his native land until he came to America in 1874, Knud C. Knudsen located in Cass county, Iowa, and there worked as a section hand on the railroad for one year, after which he moved to Audubon county and located in Oakfield township. One year later he purchased a farm of eighty acres and subsequently added forty acres to the original tract. He farmed this land until his death in 1906. His wife, the mother of Peter Knudsen, died in 1910. Knud C. and Caroline Knudsen were the parents of four children: Chris, Peter, Mary and Caroline.

Eight years old when his parents brought him to America, Peter Knudsen received all of his educational training at the schools of Oakfield township, and after leaving school was engaged with his father in farming until the latter's death in 1906. When the estate was settled, Peter Knudsen purchased the farm, and since 1906 has invested about five thousand dollars in buildings, fences, drains and various processes to improve the fertility of the soil. He raises on an average of forty acres of corn and thirty acres of small grain every year. He also feeds out about seventy head of hogs. The

high prices paid for hogs for the last few years has made it profitable to raise as many as possible.

On April 24, 1888, when Peter Knudsen was twenty-two years old, he was married to Minnie Nelson, the daughter of Martin Nelson. Mr. and Mrs. Knudsen have had eight children: Lillie, Henry, Christ, Esther, Anna, Theodore, Arthur and Marie. Lillie married Chris Jensen and has two children, Arthur and Harry. Henry married a Miss Hoegh and has two children, Ethel and Harry. The remainder of the family are unmarried and live at home with their parents.

The Knudsen family are prominent members of the Danish Lutheran church, in which Peter Knudsen is a trustee. He is also a school director in Oakfield township and is identified with the Republican party.

For his enterprise and industry, Peter Knudsen has established a comfortable home in Oakfield township, and he and his wife are rearing a large family of children to honorable and useful lives. This is their greatest contribution to the happiness of the neighborhood where they live and where they have always been popular. Like so many of his fellow countrymen who have made commendable successes of farming in the new country, Peter Knudsen has become an enthusiastic and patriotic American, one who admires our institutions and appreciates the opportunities our country offers.

ROSCOE T. TURNER.

Roscoe T. Turner, an enterprising farmer of Audubon township, Audubon county, Iowa, enjoys the distinction of owning the highest assessed farm in Audubon township. Some years ago, having purchased a hundred and sixty acres of land in section 33 of this township, comprising a farm which was very poorly improved, Mr. Turner set to work diligently and within a few years has built a new eight-room house; a large barn, thirty-six by fifty-four by twenty-two feet; a sheep shed, twenty-six by one hundred and twenty feet; a hog house, twenty-two by forty-four feet, with a feeding floor, thirty-six by fifty-four feet; a silo of a hundred and fifty tons capacity, and many rods of woven-wire fence. Not only is the Turner farm recognized as being the most valuable in Audubon township, but it is likewise one of the most attractive farms to be found in this township.

Roscoe T. Turner, the son of Nathaniel and Fannie (Richardson) Turner, was born on May 13, 1878, in Exira township, Audubon county, on the

old Dick Gault farm. Nathaniel Turner, who was born in Fulton county, Illinois, January 24, 1856, was the son of John and Nancy (Miller) Turner, natives respectively of Kentucky and Indiana. John Turner was a private in Company G, Eleventh Illinois Cavalry, during the Civil War. Soon after the war he moved with his family to Audubon county, arriving at Exira, October 28, 1868, having driven overland from Des Moines. After living until 1870 in Exira, where they kept a hotel for some time, they moved to Lewisville and rented a tract of land, known as the old Ingham farm, south of Exira. After farming for some time, John Turner and his wife retired and spent their remaining days with their son, Nathaniel, and family.

On January 4, 1877, Nathaniel Turner married Marguerite Frances Richardson, who was born in Jones county, Iowa, December 3, 1861, and who was the daughter of Samuel and Phoebe (Climer) Richardson, pioneers of the section, the former of whom, at the time he was killed in the Civil War, left a widow and four children, of whom Mrs. Nathaniel Turner was the third in order of birth. Mrs. Richardson remarried and in 1870 the family came to Audubon county. Nathaniel and Marguerite F. (Richardson) Turner had two children, Roscoe, the subject of this sketch, and Alice, born on February 7, 1894, who is a student in the college at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, but is now living at home.

Roscoe T. Turner lived at home until he was married, having received his education in the school at Greeley Center, in Greeley township. After he was married, he rented a farm in Melville township for a year, and then purchased eighty acres of land in section 22 of Greeley township, living on that farm for five years, or until he purchased the hundred-and-sixty-acre farm where he now lives. Mr. Turner feeds sheep in large numbers. In 1914 he fed about fifteen hundred head and in 1915 he had twelve hundred head. He also raised cattle and hogs, selling about one car load of cattle and two carloads of hogs every year. Mr. Turner's farm, in which he takes great pride, is well known as the Valley View farm and may be counted as one of the best in Audubon county.

On December 25, 1901, Mr. Turner was married to Edith Pine, who was born on December 27, 1878, in Iowa county, Iowa, the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Correll) Pine, early settlers in Audubon county. Mr. and Mrs. Turner have one child, Lois, born on March 16, 1907.

The Turners are members of the Congregational church. A Democrat in politics, Roscoe T. Turner has served as township clerk in both Greeley and Audubon townships, and faithfully discharged the duties of these offices.

He is a young man of engaging personality, popular in the community where he lives, and honored and respected by those with whom he has come in contact.

REV. JOHN MAYER.

Audubon county has been the home and the scene of labors of many men, who have not only led lives which should serve as a lesson and an inspiration to those who follow them on the stage of life's activities, but who have also rendered important service in the civic and religious life of the community. The honored and highly esteemed Rev. John Mayer, pastor of the Holy Trinity Catholic church at Exira, is a man well rounded in character, sincere, devoted and loyal. He has been pastor of the Holy Trinity church since September 18, 1913, and during the intervening period has gained many warm and ardent friends in this part of Audubon county.

Rev. John Mayer, pastor of Holy Trinity Catholic church, of Exira, Iowa, was born at Goldshoefer, Germany, March 18, 1883, and is a son of Michael and Rosena (Klopfer) Mayer, both of whom were native-born Germans. Michael Mayer was a German farmer and is still living in his native land on a farm of eighty acres, and is engaged in general farming.

Michael and Rosena (Klopfer) Mayer were the parents of eight children, John, George, Joseph, Kasper, Anthony, Michael, Otilia and Mary. Michael is a soldier in the German army at the present time, and is attached to the German cavalry. Kasper is also a German soldier, and is serving in the infantry. All of the Mayer children are unmarried and are still living at home. Rev. John Mayer is the only member of the family who has come to America.

Rev. John Mayer received his early education in the state parochial school of Hofen, Germany. After leaving the parochial school, he attended the state college of Ewangen for five years, and then returned to his home, after which for four years he worked as a railroad clerk.

In 1905, when the Rev. John Mayer was twenty-two years of age, he came to America and located in New York City with an uncle, Rev. John Mayer, who was pastor of the St. Nicholas church, of that city. Subsequently, the subject of this sketch attended Vincent College at Lathrop, Pennsylvania, for one year, and from Lathrop College he went to the Holy Ghost College, and was graduated from this last institution in 1908. Following his graduation from Holy Ghost College, he entered St. Meinard's



REV. JOHN MAYER

College, Indiana, where he remained for one year, after which he entered Mount St. Mary's College, at Emmetsburg, Maryland, where he remained for two years.

On July 17, 1911, Rev. John Mayer was ordained at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Davenport, Iowa, and subsequently, celebrated his first mass at the Sts. Peter and Paul church, at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. After this he was appointed assistant pastor at the St. Ambrose church, of Des Moines, Iowa. He remained at Des Moines, however, but a brief time, when he was appointed to the parish at Rosemount, Iowa, where he remained for two years. On September 18, 1913, Rev. John Mayer was assigned to the Holy Trinity parish of Exira, Iowa, which he has served as pastor for nearly two years. He is well versed in several foreign languages, and is a profound student of history. He has enjoyed a large measure of success in the ministry and altogether has made rapid progress in his work. He is not yet thirty-five years of age, and judging from his past work, he bids fair to become one of the leaders in his church in this part of the state.

Rev. Mayer is identified with the Democratic party, but his calling has prevented him from taking an active part in political affairs, although he is deeply interested in all public-spirited movements which have for their object the advancement of his community, and the welfare of his fellow citizens.

HANS R. HANSEN.

Among the native-born Danish farmers, meaning the younger farmers, of Oakfield township, who were born in Schleswig, Hans R. Hansen has made commendable progress since coming to America with his parents, and is now the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of land in Oakfield township. He was born on April 15, 1880, in Germany, and is the son of Mathias and Anna Marie (Christensen) Hansen, who came to America to seek their fortune in the new world. After coming to America they located in section 9, in Oakfield township, Audubon county, Iowa, and here purchased seventy-nine acres of land, which Mr. Hansen farmed for one year, or until his untimely death. Mathias Hansen was killed by a horse, about a year after coming to this country. He left at the time of his death a widow and three children, Jesse (deceased), Walter, and Hans, the subject of this sketch. After his untimely death, the mother married Nels Petersen, and they had two children. Mathias Hansen was killed, November 11, 1880. Mrs. Nels Petersen died, January 14, 1914.

An infant when brought to America by his parents, Hans R. Hansen was educated in the schools of this country. He attended the public schools of Oakfield township and received a good common school education, which has been very helpful to him in his career as a farmer. After finishing school he worked on the home place for four years, and then did farm work on various farms for another four years. At the end of this time he rented a farm for two years, and was then married and moved to the farm upon which he is now living, and where he has invested five thousand dollars in various kinds of improvements. Mr. Hansen has found mixed farming to be most profitable, and raises forty-five acres of corn, thirty acres of small grain, and feeds out about sixty head of hogs every year.

On April 20, 1904, when he was twenty-four years of age, Hans R. Hansen was married to Anna Hoegh, daughter of Niels P. Hoegh, whose wife was Catherine Knoss, the daughter of Christian Knoss. Niels P. Hoegh is one of the most prominent farmers and bankers of Audubon county, who, since coming to Audubon county, about 1875, has acquired a substantial interest in two of the leading banks of the county, a large lumber company, and who owns two thousands acres of land in Audubon and Cass counties. Anna Hoegh was one of eight children born to her parents. The others are George (deceased), William, Walter, Catherine, Benjamin, Edward and Arthur.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hans R. Hansen have been born four children, as follow: Edwin, Dagmar, Wilbert and Gladys. All of these children are living at home with their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Hans R. Hansen are members of the Danish Lutheran church. Mr. Hansen is a Republican.

Hans R. Hansen is not only an enterprising farmer, but he is a good manager and a successful business man, who, with a start which he has already won, is certain to achieve newer and greater things in life. The people of Oakfield township, who are well acquainted with him, all like Hans R. Hansen, and everybody is interested in his success. Aggressive and straightforward in dealings with his fellows, he well merits the confidence which he so universally enjoys.

HENRY TORPY.

Another native-born citizen of the great Hawkeye state, of Irish parentage, is Henry Torpy, the owner of Sun Slope stock farm, of two hundred and sixty acres, in Lincoln township.

Henry Torpy was born at Stanwood, Iowa, March 17, 1867. His parents, Thomas and Mary (Constentine) Torpy, both came from Ireland. The former was a farmer, who followed that occupation in the Emerald isle until he was twenty years old, when he came to America. He located in Pennsylvania and worked for a time in the coal mines of that state. Eventually he came to Iowa and farmed in this state for a few years, settling first in Cedar, then later, in Crawford county. In 1874 he purchased a hundred and sixty acres of land in Shelby county, and five years later purchased land in Audubon county. Mr. Torpy first purchased two hundred and forty acres, one-half at sixteen and a half dollars an acre and the other half at twelve dollars an acre. He farmed here until 1901, when he moved to Omaha. His death occurred on February 24, 1905, and his wife died on January 15, 1902. They had ten children, eight of whom are living. Henry is the only one living in Audubon county.

Henry Torpy received his education in Crawford and Audubon counties, and after leaving school farmed with his father until he was of age. He then rented a hundred acres of land and began farming for himself. The first year he rented land and then purchased the farm for twenty-two dollars and a half an acre. It is the same farm upon which he is now living. During the past twenty-five years Mr. Torpy has invested ten thousand dollars in various kinds of improvements, and now has one of the best-kept and most highly profitable farms in Lincoln township. He raises pure-bred Belgian horses, Hereford cattle and Duroc Jersey hogs.

Henry Torpy was married May 15, 1889, to Mary Coates, daughter of William and Mary (Maloney) Coates, the former a native of England and the latter, of Ireland. Two children, Thomas W. and Olive M., have been born to this marriage. Mrs. Torpy was born at Denison, Crawford county, Iowa. William Coates was a farmer in England, where he was married, and after staying there three years they came to America in 1870, and located at Denison, Iowa, where he worked for the railroad company for a few years. He then purchased a farm a few miles from Vail, Iowa, and farmed there until his retirement. He moved to Vail in 1900, and died on April 17, 1906. Mrs. Coates is still living at Vail. They had four children, all of whom are living.

Mr. and Mrs. Torpy are members of the Catholic church. Fraternally, Mr. Torpy is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, while, in politics, he is identified with the Democratic party.

During recent years Henry Torpy has gained an enviable reputation in Audubon county as a breeder of pure-bred Belgian horses, and has built up a large and extensive market for this breed. Mr. Torpy's standing in Lin-

coln township, however, does not rest entirely upon his reputation as a farmer. He is a good citizen and popular in his neighborhood, since he is a man of genial and agreeable personality. Few men are better known or better liked in Lincoln township than he.

ELMER C. PORCH.

Elmer C. Porch, a farmer of Audubon township, Audubon county, Iowa, who is the owner of two hundred acres of land in Audubon and Exira townships, was born on September 22, 1863, in Knox county, the son of Joshua and Maria (Smith) Porch, natives of Holmes and Wayne counties, Ohio, respectively. The former was a son of David and Catherine Porch, who were natives of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and the latter was the daughter of Isaac and Delilah (Smith) Smith, natives of Wayne county, Ohio. The Porch family is of Pennsylvania-Dutch descent, though Joshua Porch became a farmer in Ohio; he came to Iowa in 1874, located in Cass county. After living at Atlantic for several months, in 1875 he purchased a farm in Grant township, Cass county, where he lived until 1912, when he retired from active farm life and removed to Anita.

Elmer C. Porch was the only child born to his parents. After receiving a good common school education, he lived at home until his marriage, when he purchased eighty acres of land in section 31, Audubon township, where he is now living. He has since purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in addition to the original tract, forty acres of which is located in section 36 of Exira township and eighty acres in Audubon township. When Mr. Porch first purchased this farm there were no improvements whatever. After building a fourteen-by-twenty-foot shack, he lived in this building for three years, and then added two more rooms, which served until 1910, when he remodeled it, and now has a large seven-room house, with waterworks and other modern conveniences. In 1902 Mr. Porch built a large barn, forty-eight by fifty-four feet in size, and in the meantime has added other outbuildings, such as cribs, granaries, etc. Mr. Porch makes a specialty of thoroughbred Duroc-Jersey hogs.

On June 30, 1886, in Cass county, Iowa, Mr. Porch was married to Mary Parker, who was born in LaSalle county, Illinois, and who is a daughter of John A. and Esther (Garver) Parker, who came west to Cass county in 1880. Mrs. Mary (Parker) Porch died in 1893, leaving two children, Esta, born May 22, 1887, and Clarence Glenn, born July 24, 1894. The former married James Rickle, and they have one daughter, Marie Violet. A third child of Mr. and Mrs. Porch died in infancy.

On February 26, 1902, in Cass county, Mr. Porch was married to Anna Griffith, who was born January 28, 1872, in Marion county, Iowa, and who is a daughter of Levi and Minerva C. (Adams) Griffith, the former of whom was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, and the latter of whom is a native of Herkimer county, New York. When seven years of age, Levi H. Griffith removed from Pennsylvania to Ohio with his parents, and eventually came from that state to Marion county, Iowa. The Adams family removed from New York state to Kansas in an early day, and from that state to Marion county, Iowa, where Mrs. Porch's father and mother were married. In 1869 they came to Cass county, Iowa, where they rented land for a time, after which they purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land, where they lived the remainder of their lives, Mr. Griffith's death occurring in 1911, while his wife passed away in 1895. Mr. and Mrs. Griffith were the parents of nine children, eight of whom are still living, Mrs. Louisa J. Regan, Mrs. Della C. Winder, Mrs. Sarah Norton, Mrs. Anna M. Porch, Ella, Grant J., Roscoe C. and Isaac. Edwin died in 1901.

By his second marriage, Mr. Porch has had three children, two of whom are living, Mildred L., born October 24, 1904, and Roscoe E., born April 28, 1910, while Carlton B., the eldest child of this second marriage, who was born on December 20, 1902, died on April 27, 1906.

Mr. and Mrs. Porch are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, although Mrs. Porch is a supporter of the Christian Science faith. She is also an enthusiastic member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and of the Woman's Home Missionary Society, in both of which organizations she takes an active interest. Mr. Porch formerly belonged to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, but has not been active in this organization during late years. Politically, he is an adherent of the Democratic party, but has not held any public offices. Mr. and Mrs. Porch are popular members of society in the community where they live, and Mr. Porch is an honored citizen of Audubon township. His success as a farmer is a result of his unceasing industry and his careful and wise management.

DOC B. ANDERSON.

Doc B. Anderson, a popular farmer of Hamlin township, Audubon county, Iowa, was born, April 22, 1863, in Marion county, Iowa, and is the son of John and Zeruiah (Anderson) Anderson, natives of Ohio, who were

married in that state and who moved from Ohio to Indiana, and from Indiana to Ray county, Missouri. After living in Missouri for a few years, they moved to Marion county, Iowa, and in 1875 came to Audubon county, where they lived until their deaths. They purchased land in Leroy township, and lived to rear a family of three children, Abe R., B. J. and Doc.

After having received a common school education, Doc Anderson lived at home until twenty years of age, and then rented land, which he cultivated along with eighty acres of land which his father had given to him. Mr. Anderson has added to this original tract until he now owns forty acres in section 25 in Leroy township, three hundred and twenty acres in section 36, Leroy township, and a hundred and forty-eight acres in section 1 in Hamlin township, making altogether five hundred and eight acres.

In 1897, in the city of Omaha, Nebraska, Mr. Anderson was married to Lillian Brandstatter, who was born on December 10, 1876, in Johnson county, Iowa, and who is the daughter of Daniel and Mary (Campbell) Brandstatter. These parents were natives of Johnson county, Iowa, and Montreal, Canada, respectively, the latter having come to Iowa with her parents when a girl fifteen or sixteen years old, and having been married to Daniel Brandstatter in Iowa City on October 10, 1874. In 1883 they came to Audubon county, arriving in Exira on February 20 of that year. The following summer they purchased eighty acres of land, which they improved. This farm was located in section 14, Hamlin township. The father has since lived in several places, and now owns the Exira livery and feed stable. At one time he was a resident of Texas. He and his wife had seven children, six of whom are living, Mrs. Mary J. Snively, Mrs. Anderson, Alice, Philip, Mrs. Nellie Clapp and Mrs. Clara Terry. The wife and mother of these children died on April 17, 1891, and the father later married Mrs. Martha A. (Osterreicher) Campbell. Three children, Isabelle, Edith and Clarence, have been born to this second union.

Mr. and Mrs. Doc Anderson have had five children: Bessie, who was born on April 24, 1898, married Austin Keness on January 1, 1915, and they live in Leroy township; Nellie, born on February 2, 1900; Alice, born on June 8, 1903; Mary, born on November 27, 1907, and Hope, born on April 16, 1913.

Mr. Anderson carries on general farming and stock raising, and is well known over the country, being admired by the host of friends he has made. A Republican in politics, he has never held any offices.

PETER M. JESSEN.

Specific mention is made in this volume of many of the worthy citizens of Audubon county, citizens who have figured in its growth and development and whose interests have been identical with its every phase of progress. Each has contributed in his place to the well-being of the community in which he resides and to the advancement of its normal and legitimate growth. Among this number is Peter M. Jessen, a successful and well-known farmer of Hamlin township. Peculiar interest attaches to Mr. Jessen's career from the fact that he is one of those men born in a foreign land who has carved out his success in a new and strange country, where, for a time, language, manners and customs were entirely different.

Peter M. Jessen was born on January 6, 1870, in North Schleswig, Germany, the son of Peter A. and Marn (Juhler) Jessen, who also were natives of the same country while it was a province of Denmark. The elder Jessen was a farmer by occupation, but also worked at carpentering and masonry work. Peter A. Jessen and wife were the parents of nine children, six sons and three daughters, Jens C., Peter M., Martin A., Chris A., Marie Stone, Mrs. Christena M. Peterson, Mrs. Ottolena Petersen, Andrew and Nes, all of whom are living in Audubon county, having come from their native land. The family came to the United States at different times, Martin and Jens coming here first in the fall of 1888. In the spring of 1889 Peter M. came to this country and the rest of the family came later, the parents coming last in 1893.

Peter M. Jessen, after arriving in this country, came directly to Marn, Cass county, Iowa, where his two brothers were located. He obtained work on a farm and has followed agriculture ever since. He worked out by the month for three years and then rented a farm in partnership with his brother, Martin, although he had purchased his present farm previous to this. He rented land for three years and then purchased an old house of four small rooms and moved it to his farm. He built some straw sheds and then moved to his own land. He lived in this house for nine years, when he built his present eight-room home. He had erected barns, cribs, hog houses and a windmill before that. The land was new prairie and nearly all of it had to be broken for the first time. This land cost him twenty-two dollars and a half per acre, but is now worth many times that amount.

In December, 1891, Marn Smith, who became the wife of the subject, came to the United States, locating first in Chicago, where her parents already lived. She was born on March 9, 1873, in North Schleswig, Ger-

many, near where Peter M. Jessen was born, and was a daughter of Hans and Hannah (Brandt) Smith, who also were natives of Schleswig, where Hans Smith was a general laborer. Hans Smith and wife were the parents of four children, Mrs. Elsie M. Paulsen, Mrs. Rosie Petersen, Arthur H., and Marn, the wife of Mr. Jessen. In April, 1892, Marn Smith came to Audubon, where she was married to Mr. Jessen on July 12th of that year.

Peter M. Jessen and wife are the parents of eight children: Marne Hansina, born May 12, 1893, married Peter Hundebel, and they are now living in Allerup Tjareborg, Denmark, and have one child, Kattie; Walter P., born on May 27, 1895; Hannah, born on November 17, 1897; Thomas P., born on August 31, 1901; Marlow H., born on July 4, 1904; Rosie, born on June 6, 1907; Lillie, born on March 27, 1909; Ethel, born on June 16, 1912.

Mr. Jessen does general farming and stock raising. He is a stockholder in the West Hamlin Creamery Company, and has been on the board of directors for a number of years, being now president of the board.

The Jessen family are earnest and devout members of the Danish Lutheran church, and Mr. Jessen was one of the organizers of the St. John's Lutheran church in Oakfield township. Politically, Mr. Jessen is an adherent of the Democratic party, but, with the exception of serving on the board of school directors, he has not held public office, nor has he been especially active in political affairs. Mr. Jessen is one of the well-known citizens of Hamlin township, progressive in his methods and broad-minded in his viewpoint. He is admired and respected by his neighbors and acquaintances.

J. B. J. LOHNER.

(Full name, John Björn Johnsen Lohner.)

Comparatively speaking, there are very few native-born Norsemen living in Audubon county, Iowa; but, wherever the Norsemen have settled in the United States, they have proved themselves good citizens from every point of view.

J. B. J. Lohner, a well-known real estate dealer of Exira, Audubon county, is one of the few members of the Lohner family who settled in America. His brother, Klaus, and sister, Aaste, came to this county later and stayed some years, but returned to Norway in the spring of 1914. Mr. Lohner also



MR. AND MRS. J. B. J. LOHNER

has two cousins living in this country, namely, John T. Lohnner, now of Kirkman, Iowa, and Thomas Lohnner, now of Manchester, South Dakota. Those two men were brothers, and were formerly in the mercantile business in Exira at different times.

J. B. J. Lohnner has been engaged in the real estate business in Exira since June, 1902, and has made a remarkable success of his business. He had to start in a very small way, as he had but little money with which to pay the expenses connected with the business. Mr. Lohnner was born on a farm named Lohnner, in Tördal county, near Kragerö City on the southern coast of Norway. Lohnner is a group of farms from which the family takes its last name and is about forty-two English miles inland from Kragerö. Mr. Lohnner was born on December 19, 1873. His parents, John Thomasen and Anne Lohnner were both natives of Norway and lived there all their lives. John Thomasen Lohnner was a farmer, who owned considerable timber and grazing land, and had twenty-eight acres under cultivation. He died in 1895. Mr. Lohnner's mother died in 1875. They were the parents of six children, one of whom died in infancy. Those who grew to maturity were, Thomas, Halvor, Klaus, Aaste and John. After the death of his first wife, the father married again and five additional children were born, as follow: Anne, Gunhild, Nils, Olav and Andrea. All of the children are living in Norway at the present time except the subject of this sketch.

Having received a very limited education in the common schools of Norway, consisting of three months each year from the age of seven till fourteen, Mr. Lohnner came to America in the month of April, 1893, when nineteen years old. He immediately went to work on the farm for O. P. Tyler, one mile south of Hamlin. He worked on the farm several summers, and went to country schools during the winters; he also went to school five months in the grammar room in the Exira public schools. He then moved to Audubon and worked his way through the Audubon high school, from which he graduated in 1900, at which time he ranked No. 1 in his class, with an average scholarship percentage of ninety-nine. After leaving school, he went to Des Moines and worked at the painter's and paperhanger's trade for two years. After that, he returned to Audubon county and, in June, 1902, located permanently in Exira, where he engaged in the real estate business. He had a hard time to get started, partly because of his inexperience in business; but mainly because of the lull in the real estate business which followed the boom that was on during 1901 and the first half of 1902. Twice he failed to get a start, and had to return to the painter's and paper-

hanger's trade in order that he might earn some expense money. Undaunted by failure, he pushed onward, economizing as best he could. Once, he set out to walk nearly forty miles to see a prospective land buyer living in Shelby county; but the prospective buyer quickly informed Mr. Lohner that he was not in the market for a farm at that time. Mr. Lohner then returned by railroad, having enough cash to pay his expenses one way. This little incident throws a good deal of light upon the patience, perseverance and "wood-sawing" abilities of Mr. Lohner, qualities which are so essentially necessary in the making of success.

Mr. Lohner gained the confidence of those with whom he had business dealings and several men offered to furnish him money with which to buy farms in partnership, Lohner to pay interest on one-half of the actual investment. From then on, Mr. Lohner has been buying and selling farms and has succeeded far beyond his greatest hopes, being now recognized as one of the most successful real estate dealers in Audubon county.

Mr. Lohner is a genuine booster for the upbuilding and betterment of his community and country; indeed, he is not only a booster, but is an actual builder. He is almost continually putting up buildings and otherwise improving the different farms which he buys and sells. In 1913, he built a large and splendid-looking garage on Washington street north of Exira Park, the equal of which cannot be found in this state in any town of the size of Exira.

Mr. Lohner was married on December 3, 1911, to Ida Larson, whose parents, Marten J. and Laura (Nelson) Larson, are living four miles north of Avoca, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Lohner have one child, John Julius. Mrs. Lohner was born in Shelby county, Iowa, but her parents were natives of Denmark. Her father clerked in a store before he came to America. He located in Shelby county, Iowa, after coming to this country, and subsequently purchased the farm on which he is still living. He and his wife were the parents of twelve children as follow: Louise, Minnie, Nels (deceased), Ida, Sena, Lawrence, Mary, Edna, Olga, Clarence, Lillie and Harry (deceased).

The Lohner family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Lohner is not only a member of the blue lodge of the Masonic fraternity, but he is a member of the chapter and commandery at Audubon, and the Shrine at Des Moines. He served as worshipful master of Exodus Lodge No. 342 for the year 1914 and was re-elected to serve in the same capacity for this year (1915). This lodge is located at Exira. He is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and has been secretary of the local chapter

since 1909. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias. He was a member of the first board of directors of the Exira Co-operative Company (a farmers' company) and is the present secretary of the same.

Mr. Lohner has been Republican committeeman from Exira township since 1908, and, in this capacity, has able and efficiently served the Republican party with which he has been identified ever since his arrival in America. He is known as a wise and judicious political leader and his counsel is much sought by the people of this congressional district.

JAMES A. CAMPBELL.

James A. Campbell, who is one of the largest farmers of Lincoln township, Audubon county, Iowa, and who owns a farm of two hundred and forty acres in that township, was born on May 29, 1857, in Jasper county, Iowa. He is the son of A. D. and Nancy (Tramel) Campbell, the former of whom was a native of Indiana and the latter, a native of Ohio. After being educated in the public schools of Indiana, A. D. Campbell worked as a farm hand until he had reached his majority, and then farmed for himself. Coming west in 1852, shortly after his marriage, he settled in Jasper county, Iowa, and there entered three hundred acres of land at a dollar and twenty-five cents an acre. The trip from Indiana to Iowa was made with a horse team. Mr. Campbell remained in Jasper county until his death, in 1899, his wife having died eleven years previously, in 1888. They had six children, two of whom, A. B. and James A., are now living.

James A. Campbell, after having completed his education in the schools of Jasper county, Iowa, worked as a farm hand until twenty-four years old, when he removed to Audubon county and purchased eighty acres of land at ten dollars an acre. Mr. Campbell broke the sod and improved the place in various ways and in the beginning erected a shack, fourteen by twenty feet. Mr. Campbell's means naturally were very limited when he came to Audubon county, and especially because of the low price of farm products. He was compelled to sell his wheat at a price as low as twenty-five cents a bushel. On the two hundred and forty acres where he lives he has invested eighteen thousand dollars in improvements. He feeds some two hundred head of hogs and raises seventy-five acres of corn every year, as well as fifty acres of small grain.

James A. Campbell was married on February 9, 1882, to Mary Crawford, daughter of J. B. and Eliza Crawford. To this marriage two children, Mae and Floyd, have been born. Mae married a Mr. Aikman, and they have two children, Ethel and Gladys. Floyd is unmarried. Mrs. Campbell was born in Jasper county, Iowa, her father having been a native of Virginia and her mother of Ohio. These parents were married in Ohio and, after their marriage, removed to Benton county, Iowa, where they farmed for a short time, and then removed to Jasper county and there farmed the remainder of their lives. Mrs. Campbell was one of six children born to her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. James A. Campbell are members of the United Brethren church and Mr. Campbell was township trustee for ten years. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. In politics, he is identified with the Republican party.

James A. Campbell is a man who thoroughly understands the science of farming. He especially understands the value of mixed farming and the value of raising thoroughbred stock. In fact, he is an extensive breeder of thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle. Moreover, he is not only a good farmer, but is a man whose influence in the community is always counted on the side of the very best things. James A. Campbell has a large number of friends in Lincoln township and Audubon county, men who know and appreciate him for his real worth.

JOHN R. HEIKEN.

In the fall of 1871 there might have been seen moving slowly across the prairie from Illinois to Iowa, the old-fashioned "prairie schooners," in which so many families came to this state about that time. The journey from Illinois to Iowa overland, via the "prairie schooner," required about three weeks in those days. In these present days, of course, a trip could be made in a single night, but railroads were not so numerous then as they are now. In one of the typical vehicles which crossed the prairie in the fall of 1871 was the family of Peter and Marie Hillers Heiken, both of whom had come to America from Germany, where the former was a laborer. With this family was a son, then about eighteen years old, John R. Heiken, who has become in recent years one of the largest landowners in Audubon county. The Heikens, after coming to America in 1867, had located first in Whiteside county, Illinois, and had again, after renting land for four years in Whiteside county, packed up their belongings and proceeded west-

ward. Arriving in Audubon county late in the fall of 1871, the Heiken family settled in section 29 of Oakfield township, where Peter Heiken purchased eighty acres of land and where he engaged in general farming. From year to year he increased the acreage of this farm until, in 1899, when he retired and moved to Atlantic, Iowa, he owned three hundred and twenty acres. He died in January, 1902, leaving a widow, who is still living at Atlantic.

Peter and Marie Heiken had eleven children, nine of whom are now living: John R., the subject of this sketch; Maggie, Ida, Roy, Jennie, Anna, Ine, Harry and Peter.

John R. Heiken was thirteen years old when he was brought to America by his parents and had, therefore, attended school in his native land, having been born November 27, 1854, in Oldenburg, Germany. His education was completed in Illinois and, after leaving school, he worked for a time with a construction gang on the Rock Island railroad. After being engaged in railroad work for two years, he started farming with his father, with whom he remained until he was twenty-six years old. At that time, he rented one hundred and twenty acres of land and in 1884, when he was thirty years old, purchased one hundred and twenty acres, which became the nucleus of his great fortune in real estate. The fourteen hundred acres of land which he owns in Audubon county he now rents and, aside from the supervisory interest he takes in the cultivation of this land, he devotes practically all of his time to several business enterprises in which he is interested, one of which is the elevator at Gates, Iowa. He is also interested at several places in the implement business.

On February 22, 1882, Mr. Heiken was married to Bertha Knopp, the daughter of Theodore and Annie Knopp. Mr. and Mrs. Heiken have five children living: Louise married George Hansen and has four children, Florence, Merrill, Leroy and Imo; Horace married Anna Knopp; John and Grover are at home and Lillian is a senior in the College of Liberal Arts at Highland Park College, Des Moines, Iowa.

Religiously, Mr. and Mrs. Heiken and family are members of the German Lutheran church. Mr. Heiken is a Democrat in politics and has always been interested in educational affairs and served thirteen years as a member of the school board in Oakfield township. At present he is a director of a lumber yard and of three different banks.

John R. Heiken deserves great credit for his progress as a farmer in this, his adopted, country. He has assisted in the great work of improving the soil and in increasing its production of grains and live stock. He has

assisted in many ways to promote the development of the county and today is regarded as one of its leading citizens and business men, a man of remarkable intuition, having been the founder of the town of Gates. Mr. Heiken has always been highly respected and enjoys today confidence and esteem of the people of Oakfield township.

PERRY L. CARTER.

Perry L. Carter, who owned a splendid farm of four hundred and eighty acres in Melville township, but who is now living retired in Audubon, Iowa, was born on January 5, 1858, in Venango county, Pennsylvania. He is the son of Henry and Mary Ann (Watts) Carter. Henry Carter, a farmer by occupation, was reared and remained in Pennsylvania all his life. He was the father of twelve children, only three of whom, Robert M., Hannah M. and Perry L., are now living. Both Henry and Mary Ann (Watts) Carter are now deceased.

Perry L. Carter received his education in the public schools of Venango county, Pennsylvania, and after leaving school farmed with his father until he was twenty-three years of age. He then came west and located in Kansas, where he lived for a short time, and afterwards he came to Iowa and located in Audubon county. In 1880 he settled in Greeley township, where he worked on a farm. Later, he purchased eighty acres of land at seven dollars an acre, improving the place in various ways and especially by breaking the tough sod. Three years later he purchased eighty acres more and engaged in general farming in that township until 1900, when he purchased a half section and farmed for one year. In 1901 he removed to Melville township, where he purchased four hundred and eighty acres of land. Here he farmed until 1907, when he retired and moved to Audubon.

Mr. Carter was married on December 25, 1881, to Nannie K. Ness, daughter of Martin and Hannah K. Ness, and to this happy union six children were born: Clifton L. married Myrtle Pickens and they have two children, Durward B. and Bernard L.; Girt L. married Sadie McCoy; Edgar G. married Jessie Thompson, and they have two children, Margaret Evelyn and Charles Perry; Lola H. married Charles Owen, and they have two children, Virgil and William Donald; Zenia Mae married Robert Twist and they have three children, Merle Emma, Helen Lucile and Veda Mae; Henry M. Mrs. Perry L. Carter died on February 7, 1908, and some time after

her death Mr. Carter married Carrie D. Gardner, daughter of Jotham and Lydia F. (Appleton) Gardner. No children have been born to this second marriage.

Politically, Mr. Carter is a Republican. He has always been interested in the educational affairs of Audubon county and has served as a school director in this county. Mr. Carter has been a successful farmer, an industrious worker and a good manager. He is well informed on public questions and takes an active interest in all matters that have any relation to the public welfare. He can always be found in the front ranks of those who are leading worthy public enterprises and his support can always be depended upon. He is a man of warm and sympathetic impulses, a good neighbor and a good citizen.

MATT CHRISTENSEN.

Matt Christensen, although of Danish parentage, is one of Uncle Sam's true children and with whom he is well pleased, as there is no vocation in which he is more interested, or stands ready to give his valuable advice and assistance to, than that of agriculture. No man need suffer for the want of proper instruction in conducting his farm along the most approved and up-to-date lines. All he has to do is to spend a few moments of his time, and a two-cent postage stamp, and Uncle Sam does the rest. If the necessary information is not at hand, he sees to it that same be secured and forwarded to his child of the soil, with the least possible delay.

Matt Christensen, general farmer and stockman, of Lincoln township, Audubon county, was born on November 29, 1878, in Shelby county, Iowa. He is a son of Christian Christensen and Marie Peterson, his wife. In his early youth, he attended the public schools of Shelby county, quitting school at the age of fourteen years. He farmed with his father until the age of twenty-two, when he rented a farm in Shelby county and cultivated it for two years. Giving this up, he returned to his father's farm, where he has been ever since. He has given his special attention to the raising of cattle and hogs, and his crops, principally corn and small grain, have been fed to the stock on the place. He is a member of the Danish Lutheran church, of Shelby county, and in politics he is a Republican.

The parents of the subject were born in Denmark, and married in Davenport, Iowa. His father lived on a farm of four hundred and forty

acres in Shelby county all his life, up to 1914, when he retired and moved to Kimballton, Iowa. They were the parents of nine children, Christ, Nels, Anna, Matt, Johannes, Nels, Madia, Martha and Mary.

In 1901 Matt Christensen was united in marriage with Anna Petersen, daughter of Christ Petersen, of Shelby county, Iowa, by whom he has had four children, Matie, Christena, Laura and Mabel, the three eldest of whom are attending the county school.

HANS HANSEN.

Hans Hansen, one of the younger farmers and stock raisers of Douglas township, Audubon county, Iowa, and a native of Denmark, was born on October 7, 1879, the son of Jens C. and Nyson Hansen, also natives of Denmark. The father was a dealer in stock in the old country, who came to this country in 1880, and after landing in New York city, proceeded to Atlantic, Iowa, where he worked in a brickyard for a time. After living here for some time he purchased forty acres of land near Elkhorn, Iowa, and within the next few years, bought and sold several farms in this neighborhood. After buying and selling forty and eighty acres near Elkhorn, he rented two hundred and eighty acres in Hamlin township, Audubon county, which he farmed for a few years and then purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Douglas township, and was living on the latter farm at the time of his retirement from active farm life and his removal to Audubon. He and his wife were the parents of twelve children.

Hans Hansen received his education in the public schools of Audubon county, and also attended school one year in Elkhorn, after which he began working for his father on the farm, and here he remained until twenty-one years of age, when he rented a farm southwest of Audubon, consisting of two hundred and eighty acres and started out in life for himself. After living here for two years he purchased a farm of eighty-six acres in Guthrie county, Iowa, which he owned for one and one-half years. After disposing of the farm in Guthrie county, he bought the farm comprising one hundred and twenty acres where he now lives, for which he paid fifty-two dollars an acre. In 1913 he built a thoroughly modern house equipped with waterworks and a lighting system, which is available in every part of the house and which cost about five thousand dollars. In 1914 he built a new barn at a cost of about fifteen hundred dollars. All of the grain raised on the farm is fed to live



HOME OF HANS HANSEN

stock. Ordinarily, Mr. Hansen sells about one hundred head of hogs every year, and is very successful in the breeding and handling of live stock.

In 1901, Hans Hansen was married to Anna Hansen, the daughter of Peter Hansen, of Brayton, Iowa, and to this union have been born four children, Maggie, Agnes, Petrea and Rose, all of whom are living at home with their parents, and all of whom attend school.

Mr. and Mrs. Hansen are members of the Danish Lutheran church at Audubon, and are actively interested in the affairs of this denomination. Mr. Hansen is identified with the Republican party, but on account of his extensive agricultural interests in the county, he has taken no considerable part in the political life of his township and county, but has left the management of political situations to others. As a citizen of this great state, he has made the most of his opportunities, and is entitled to exceptional credit for his part in the agricultural development of Audubon county. Mr. Hansen is well known in the neighborhood where he lives and has a host of friends in the county.

L. PETER NELSON.

Among the thousands of foreign-born citizens of this country, who have found in many instances both fame and fortune and who, in practically every instance, have found here what they would have been unable to acquire in their native lands—a comfortable home and opportunities for their children—it is not unusual to find that elder sons have come first and that they have been followed with in a few years by their parents. Such an instance is to be found in the case of the Nelson family. L. Peter Nelson, now a retired farmer of Oakfield township, who, until a year or two ago, was one of the largest farmers in Audubon county, was the first member of his family to come to America. Finding this country all that he had hoped and expected it to be, he was followed in eight years by his parents, who also made this their home during their declining years.

L. Peter Nelson, of Oakfield township, was born on August 14, 1844, in Denmark and is the son of Hans and Christina (Larsen) Nelson, both natives of Denmark. The former, a wagonmaker by trade, followed that occupation until he came to America in 1872, when he became a farmer, first in Cass county, Iowa. After having purchased forty acres of land in Cass county, he subsequently added forty acres more and engaged in general farming in Cass and Audubon counties for five years. Before

coming to America, he had served his time in the Danish army. Hans and Christena Nelson had six children: Catherine, Mary, Juliane, L. Peter, Nels C. and Charles F. Although L. Peter Nelson came to America in 1864, it was six years before he permanently established himself in the Hawkeye state. Before coming to this country, he had received a good education in the common schools of his native land and had been a wagon-maker, working with his father. After coming to this country, he located temporarily in Michigan, where he worked in the pineries in the winter and at carpentry in the summer. After being in Michigan two years, he went on to Minnesota and lived in Minnesota and Wisconsin for three years, or until 1870, when he moved to Cass county and purchased forty acres of land. There he farmed for six years and in 1878 he moved to Audubon county and purchased eighty acres of land, the farm upon which he is now living. Year by year his profits grew and his savings increased, and as his savings accumulated, he bought more and more land until, when he divided his land among his children, on November 26, 1914, he owned altogether eight hundred acres in Audubon and Cass counties.

Thanksgiving day of 1914 was a joyous occasion for the Nelson family, for, on that day, the loving and generous father of the Nelson children divided his eight hundred acres of land among the children, giving each child eighty acres. Mr. Nelson was married on November 12, 1866, two years after coming to America, to Mary Petersen, the daughter of Peter Petersen. To them have been born ten children: Gilbert P., who married Anna Nelson; John C., who married Rosa Nelson; Julius A., who married Elizabeth Brown; Edward M., who married Mae Jonson; Ludvig R., who married Elsie Madison; Alfred A., who married Bessie Brown; Alma C., who married Harry Traum; Christina, who became the wife of Evans Marquesen; Rosa and Martha, who are unmarried. The mother of these children died on January 14, 1908.

During his lifetime, Mr. Nelson has been a member of the Danish Lutheran church and has been identified with the Republican party, although he has never been especially active in its councils. Few men show a more commendable spirit of generosity than L. Peter Nelson, who, by his gift to his children, has thoroughly proved his keen and abiding interest in their welfare. Mr. Nelson divided his property with the spirit of the father who wants to see his children enjoy while he still lives, the things which, to some extent, they assisted him in accumulating. Very few fathers in Oakfield township are more dearly loved today than the venerable L. Peter Nelson.

HERMAN ULLERICH.

In the study of the history and habits of foreigners, who have come to America to gain their fortunes, no characteristic is so strongly presented to our view as that of restlessness. In fact, it was this very characteristic that prompted Columbus to undertake his hazardous voyage of exploration. It was in the make-up of our colonial and Revolutionary ancestors, very few of whom remained where they first settled on arrival, and the same spirit is as strong today in their descendants as it was in them. It is present in business, as well as the home, and so strong is its influence that practically few American families remain banded together after the age of maturity has been reached. This spirit is perhaps better known as "progression," masquerading under another name.

Herman Ullerich, general farmer and stockman of Lincoln township, was born on August 22, 1871. He is a son of George and Barbara (Lauer) Ullerich. His early education was secured in the schools of Lincoln township, after which he attended school for one year at Milwaukee, quitting at the age of sixteen, when he went to work for his father, with whom he remained until twenty-seven years old. He was married on November 25, 1897, to Nancy Ketelsen, daughter of Henry Ketelsen, and lived in Crawford county one year after his marriage, going from there to Manning, where he bought a farm of eighty acres, which he sold two years later and bought his present home place of two hundred and forty acres in section 27. He rented this place out and moved to Charter Oak, where he engaged in business.

After living here a year and a half, he went back to Manning and bought eighty acres more, on which he lived a year and then moved onto his farm in Audubon county, where he still resides and now is the owner of four hundred acres of land and is also a stockholder in the bank.

All the grain and feed for the stock is grown on the farm. He has spent between four thousand and five thousand dollars in improvements on the place and raises and feeds cattle and hogs. Both Mr. and Mrs. Ullerich are members of the German Lutheran church, while, in politics, Mr. Ullerich is a Republican. To these parents were born the following children: Clara, Walter, Herbert, Julius, Linn, Victor, Erwin, Rose and Hugo, who died. The living children are all still at home.

The parents of the subject, George and Barbara Ullerich, were both born in Germany, where they continued to reside for sixteen years after they were married. From there they came direct to Audubon county, Iowa,

and took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, paying nine dollars an acre. They came as far as Iowa City on the railroad, and there bought a team and wagon, with which they drove the balance of the way.

In the early years they had many hardships to endure, living in a sod house. Carroll, Westside, Exira and Atlantic were their nearest trading points and they had to travel thirty to thirty-five miles over the prairie with no house in sight for miles, crossing creeks where there were no bridges, and sometimes getting lost in the snow storms, so it often took three to four days before they returned. They also had to fight prairie fires to protect their property.

They had eight children, namely: Lottie, who lives in Missouri; George, deceased; Anna, who lives in Crawford county, Iowa; Barbara, deceased; Carrie, who lives in Crawford county; Mary, who lives in Charter Oak; Christ, who also lives at Charter Oak, and Herman.

ALFRED WYMAN HARVEY.

Young men who begin life with no financial assistance are at a great disadvantage when their life and works are contrasted with those more favored by circumstances. Yet it is a mark of especial credit and distinction when a young man who at a tender age, is thrown upon his own resources, and after living about among strangers, finds his place in the world and establishes for himself a pleasant and profitable business. Such young men, perhaps, deserve more credit for their accomplishments than any other class, and Alfred Wyman Harvey, a well-known real estate and insurance dealer, undoubtedly belongs to that class of young men who succeed in spite of the most discouraging obstacles.

Mr. Harvey was born on August 14, 1878, in Morgan county, Indiana, near Mooresville, the son of Alfred and Mary Ellen (Harrison) Harvey, who were natives of Morgan county, Indiana, and South Carolina, respectively. Mr. Harvey's grandfather on his paternal side was William Harvey, a native of England. His father, Alfred Harvey, was the first telegraph operator at Martinsville, Indiana.

In the spring of 1881 the family came west to Exira, Audubon county, Iowa, where the parents lived until their deaths, the father dying in 1885 and the mother in 1895. They had eight children, five of whom are living; Mrs. Nettie Cochran, of near Anita, Iowa; Arthur H., of Duluth, Minnesota;

Mrs. Amy B. Elliott, of Los Angeles, California; Mrs. Nellie C. Jensen, of Waterloo, and Alfred Wyman, the subject of this sketch.

When Alfred Wyman Harvey was ten years old he was compelled to live among strangers, working for his board in the winter and attending school until sixteen years old, in the meantime completing the eighth grade of the common schools. In the summer he worked for what wages he was able to command. During the winter he was seventeen years old, he started in the old Stuart Bank as a general man-of-all-work, and remained in the bank continuously until the summer of 1912, a period of seventeen years, during which he held all of the offices from janitor up to and including the vice-presidency of the bank. Along with banking, he had engaged in the insurance business as early as 1896, and after leaving the bank he engaged altogether in the real estate and insurance business. About the same time he purchased a controlling interest in the Exira Drug Company, and this business has proved very profitable.

On August 15, 1897, Alfred Wyman Harvey was married to Alice Viola Williams, the daughter of Thomas Williams, a former merchant of Exira. Two children were born to this marriage, Alfred Thomas and Beatrice, the former of whom was born October 29, 1898, and the latter, on October 3, 1899. Both are now attending school at Hampton, Iowa. On October 3, 1904, Mr. Harvey was married to Genevieve Snyder, who was born on January 11, 1882, in Marshall, Michigan, and who is the daughter of John and Julia H. (Clark) Snyder, natives of Pennsylvania and New York, respectively. The parents, who never came farther west than the state of Michigan, died when Mrs. Harvey was thirteen years old, and after this Mrs. Harvey and her sister Rosella, now the wife of Maurice Jensen, came west to Audubon county, where Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Curd, uncle and aunt, live. Here Mrs. Harvey lived until she was married. She has one brother and four sisters living; Horace M. Snyder lives at Augustus, Georgia; Mrs. Frank P. Shaw lives at San Diego, California; Mrs. Blanche Pryor lives at Albion, Michigan; Mrs. T. J. Jones lives at Glenwood, Iowa, and Rosella is the wife of Maurice Jensen.

To Alfred W. and Genevieve Harvey have been born two children, Ruth Genevieve and Ethel Evelyn, the former born on December 19, 1905, and the latter, on November 18, 1907.

Fraternally, Mr. Harvey is a member of the blue lodge of Masons at Exira, the chapter and commandery at Audubon, and the Shrine at Des Moines. He is also a member of the Eastern Star at Exira, the Knights of Pythias, the Pythian Sisters, the Knights of the Maccabees, the American

Nobles, at Exira, and the Elks at Atlantic. For many years he has been township clerk and for four years he has served as town treasurer. He is a member of the Audubon County Fair Association and, as a fancier of fine horses, is the owner of the only team of Arabian horses in Audubon county. Alfred W. Harvey is extremely popular in business, professional and social circles in Audubon county. His long residence here as an enterprising and progressive-spirited young business man has won for him a host of friends, not only in this, but in adjoining counties, where he is quite as well known. In no sense of the word is he narrow minded or bigoted, but liberal in his views, tolerant in his general attitude and cordial in his relations with his fellows.

FRANK L. MILLER.

The prosperity and substantial welfare of a community are in a large measure due to the enterprise and wise foresight of its farmers and business men. It is the progressive, wide-awake men of affairs who make the real history of a community. Their influence in shaping and directing its various interests is difficult to estimate. The well-known gentleman whose name appears at the top of this sketch, has for many years ranked among the leading farmers and business men of Audubon county. It is to such enterprising spirits as he that the locality is indebted for its recent substantial growth and for the high position it occupies as a center of agricultural activities.

Frank L. Miller, a well-known farmer of Melville township, Audubon county, Iowa, and the proprietor of three hundred and fifty-six acres, comprising the Miller estate, was born on May 11, 1867, in Audubon county, two miles south of Exira on the Dick Gault farm. Mr. Miller lives in the second house built in Melville township and the Miller estate, of which he is the proprietor at present, originally consisted of two hundred and eighty acres, but Mr. Miller has added eighty acres to that tract.

Frank L. Miller is the son of Benjamin F. and Hannah (Wheeler) Miller. Benjamin F. Miller was the son of Robert Miller, who was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, on June 9, 1807, and died in Leroy township, Audubon county, on July 28, 1886. He learned the miller's trade and was a farmer. He was married on April 2, 1834, to Elizabeth Woodburn, who was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, the eldest daughter of William and Elizabeth (Veasy) Woodburn. They were of Irish descent,

being the second generation of their family living in America. In the fall of 1856 Robert Miller moved to Audubon county and settled three miles south of Exira on the Gault homestead, which he farmed for two years. He then purchased a farm in section 1 of Leroy township, consisting of one hundred and thirty-three acres, and here he carried on general farming and live-stock breeding. He and his wife had ten children, eight of whom grew to maturity: William, who died at the age of eight years; Martha W., who is the wife of Perry Roberts; Benjamin F., who died in November, 1886; Elizabeth, who died at the age of eleven; James, who died in January, 1884; Thomas, who is a farmer; Samuel; John A.; Mary J., who died on February 3, 1874; and Sarah A., who died on December 5, 1879. Robert Miller was appointed postmaster during President Hayes' administration and kept the postoffice in his home. He was a Democrat of the old school. Benjamin F. and James Miller served in the Civil War. The former was a member of the Thirtieth Volunteer Infantry and was orderly sergeant in Company G. James Miller was a member of Company E, Ninth Illinois Mounted Infantry, and served four years, during which period he enlisted twice.

Frank L. Miller was one year old when his parents moved to the farm where he now lives. He has lived longer in Melville township than any other citizen. His parents settled on the prairie when there was not a house in sight. Benjamin F. Miller first purchased ninety-six acres of land and built the second house in Melville township. Frank L. Miller lived five years in Audubon, operating a corn sheller and doing other work. He lived five years in Ross and two years on the Eddy farm near Ross. In 1907 he moved to the old homestead farm. Mr. Miller's education was very limited. He attended the small school on the Doc Stearns place and was a student at the same time Ella Stearns attended this school.

Frank L. Miller was married, on June 25, 1891, to Flora Carper, who was born on June 21, 1871, near Trenton, Henry county, Iowa, and who is the daughter of Martin Luther and Jane (Colista) Carper, natives of Virginia and Henry county, Iowa, respectively. They came to Audubon county in 1878 and settled in Melville township. Martin Luther Carper was born in 1841 and now lives in Ross. His wife, who before her marriage was Jane Colista, was born in 1850 and died in June, 1908. To Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Miller have been born four children: Bessie Vera, who is a graduate of the Audubon high school; Nellie May, Benjamin Franklin and Chester Fulton, all of whom are living at home.

Frank L. Miller is an ardent Democrat, but has never been especially active in politics. Fraternally, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and is influential in this organization.

ORRIN SCOTT WELCH.

The examples furnished by the biographies of steadfast men serve as a stimulus to others, spurring them on to success. In the case of the successful citizen of Lincoln township to whom the following pages are devoted, he had seen others of his class rise to positions of influence in the township in which he lived, and he made a mental resolution to exert his own force and will-power to the utmost, and win for himself a position equal to those occupied by others, who served as guides to his final success.

Orrin Scott Welch, general farmer and stockman, Lincoln township, Audubon county, Iowa, was born in McHenry county, Illinois, October 11, 1855, the son of David and Matilda (Shields) Welch. At the age of six he came with his parents to this state and started to school at McGregor, where he attended until he was nine years old. They then moved to Clinton county, Iowa, where he attended school for nine years, coming later to Crawford county. In 1878 he came to Audubon county, locating in Lincoln township, where he invested his surplus funds in a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which he purchased from the Rock Island Railroad Company for nine dollars per acre. This he cultivated to such a degree of success that he was enabled later to purchase from his neighbors the balance of his present splendid property of four hundred and twenty acres in this county. On this farm he has placed about ten thousand dollars worth of substantial improvements, including six hundred rods of tiling. The crops to which he principally devotes his attention are corn and small grain, the corn averaging about forty-five bushels to the acre and the oats about thirty-five bushels, all of which is fed to the stock raised on the place, amounting to about two cars of cattle and one car of hogs each year. Mr. Welch is especially interested in the breeding of thoroughbred Hereford cattle and Poland China hogs. He has not escaped all the township offices, having served as school director and trustee for a number of years. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias, in which he has held several offices. In religion, the family are attendants of the United Brethren church, contributing their share to its support. In politics, Mr. Welch is a never-failing voter on the Republican ticket.

David Welch, father of the subject, lived in Ohio, where he owned and cultivated a farm, which he later sold and moved to Illinois. Here he bought another farm, on which he lived until 1859, and, still not being satisfied with his location, he again sold out, and came to Iowa, where he went into the

lumber business at McGregor, remaining in that work until the time of his death, which occurred in 1863. The children born to him were as follow: Amanda, Thomas, Ellen, Martin, Phoebe, Cynthia, Orrin, and two others who are deceased.

Orrin Scott Welch was married on May 16, 1879, to Matilda Oddy, the daughter of Joseph Oddy, of Guthrie county. To this couple were born the following children: Willie is married and lives near Dale City, in Guthrie county; John and Frank are married and reside three miles east of Audubon; Myrtle died in 1893. About two years after the death of his first wife, Mr. Welch was married to Belle Arnold, of Ohio, by whom he had ten children, namely: Clint, Ben, Orrin, Lyle, Mabel, Elsie, Hazel, Earl, Ivan and Lloyd. The three latter children are deceased. All of the other children are at home with the exception of Ben and Mabel. Ben is married and resides northeast of Manning, and has one child. Mabel is married and resides at Gray.

Mrs. Welch is a daughter of Benjamin and Ellen (Toothman) Arnold, the former a native of Illinois and the latter of Ohio. They were married in Ohio, where they lived for a time, and then came to Ringgold county, Iowa, where they remained for a time and then moved to Missouri. Here they lived until Mrs. Welch was fourteen years old, when they again moved to Ringgold county, where they lived until the father's death. They were the parents of eight children, as follow: Ida, Sam, Florence, Belle, Dora and Cora, twins, Willie and one who died in infancy.

CHRISTIAN C. MOLLER.

Many prominent residents of this county have braved the dangers of a sea voyage in order that they might build their homes in a new country, without having the restrictions of the Old World to hamper their progress; but few on their westward journey passed through as hazardous experiences as did the subject of this review. There is little in the conditions now surrounding Christian C. Moller to indicate the tempestuous nature of his advent to America, but, in order to realize his dream of life in a vast, untried land, he passed through experiences more varied than those which fall to the lot of the average voyager.

Born in Ringkøbing, Jutland, Denmark, on February 2, 1870, he lived the usual life of the farmer's boy until his nineteenth year, when he decided to cross the ocean and work out success for himself. Mother and father,

brothers and sisters, were all left at home. Christian C., his father, for whom he was named, was a farmer, and early taught his boys the principles upon which they could build successful careers in that occupation. The mother, Mary (Christiansen) Moller, lived a quiet life, but took great interest in the welfare of her five children. Both lived in their native country until they passed away, he in 1880, and she thirty years later. Both were members of the Lutheran church. Their children were: Christian, a merchant in Aarhus, Denmark; Martin, a farmer near the same place; Peter, who continues farming on the old home place; Mette, who married Christian Sorensen after coming to America, and whose home is in Hamlin township, this county; and Christian C., the subject of this biography.

Christian availed himself of the opportunity of attending school as long as he could, receiving a common-school education. Presently there came the inspiration to seek America, and he set sail in a vessel called the "Denmark." The boat was wrecked in mid-ocean, the crew and passengers being picked up by a German vessel, which landed them safely on the Azore islands. The castaways remained there for two weeks, and then took passage to New York, the journey requiring two months. Christian had lost all that he had, and when he found himself in the great metropolis he had just fifty cents in his pocket.

From New York Christian C. Moller soon immigrated westward, working as a farm hand for four years, at the end of which time he settled in Audubon county and rented the farm he now owns in section 38, Sharon township. After living here four years as a tenant he bought eighty acres, and then later added forty acres and then eighty acres more. Now his farm is considered one of the most valuable in the county, being located on the ridge road between Audubon and Kimballton. On the original eighty acres, there was a small house and barn, but these have been replaced by splendid new buildings.

Lizzie Olsen became the wife of Christian C. Moller on February 9, 1893. The bride was a native of New York state, and the daughter of Hans Olsen and Annie Christina Carstensen, both of Denmark. The parents of Mrs. Moller first lived in the Empire state and later went to Iowa City to reside, following this by a residence in Shelby county, and then moved to Sharon township, Audubon county. They owned part of the land which Mr. Moller bought, and were engaged there in farming. The father and mother both worshipped in the Lutheran church, and were pious, God-fearing people. The mother passed away in 1907, and the father, three years later. Mrs.

Moller has an elder brother named Peter living in Atlantic, Iowa, and a younger brother, Ole, of Sharon township.

While Mr. and Mrs. Moller took up their residence on the present farm in 1893, it was not until 1912 that they drew the plans for the fifteen-room house in which they have since lived. No home in the vicinity is more beautiful or more comfortable than is this; equipped as it is with hot and cold water, bath, furnace heat and gas. Improvements amounting to over twelve thousand dollars have been added to the farm, these including a fine barn built in 1902. The stock bred by Mr. Moller is similar to that of the other stock raisers of the vicinity, consisting of Shorthorn cattle, Belgian draft horses and Duroc-Jersey hogs, of which he usually has from one hundred to one hundred and twenty-five head. His average planting of corn is seventy acres.

Mr. Moller has been identified with other enterprises than farming, having been secretary of the Sharon Creamery Company for six years, and a stockholder in the same business, and a stockholder in the telephone company and also in the Atlantic Northern railroad.

Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Christian C. Moller, the eldest being Annie C. The next daughter, Maria, married Simon Lykke, of Popular, Iowa. The others are, in the order of their birth, Olga C., Hans C., Clara C., Juel C. and Thora C. All were educated in the common schools and also in the Danish schools of the county.

The community in which Mr. Moller lives has shown its confidence in his judgment and integrity by honoring him with the office of school director, in which capacity he has served for several years. He is also at this time trustee of the Sharon township schools, and gives his time and attention in a spirit of unselfish interest that secures the appreciative recognition of all who know him. Mr. Moller is interested also in politics, and has always cast his lot with the Democratic party. Mr. and Mrs. Moller are adherents of the Danish Lutheran church.

Mr. Moller is a man of refined tastes and intellectual accomplishments. Beauty in all its forms makes a strong appeal to him, and he and his wife have surrounded themselves with artistic environments. Many exquisite paintings, as well as the furnishings of their home, create an artistic atmosphere which makes a visit with them a pleasant experience.

Some time ago, Mr. Moller visited his old home in Denmark and brought back with him many attractive pictures of his native country, including views of his own boyhood home. The influence of such a man as has been described very briefly is not bounded by the circle of his daily activities and acquaint-

ances. One whose chief interests are along the line of mental and moral well-being is a constant source of strength and inspiration to his family, to his neighbors, and to all who come within the range of his influence. While successful as a farmer and business man, he has not allowed material affairs to usurp all of his thought, but all the time that he was getting ready to live, he has really lived. All of his joys and sorrows have been shared by his faithful, genial and capable wife, whose industry and encouragement has been a leading factor in his success.

HANS MORTENSEN.

Hans Mortensen has attained pronounced prestige in Hamlin township, Audubon county, Iowa, by reason of natural and acquired ability and also because of his prominence in the commercial and financial life of this township. Mr. Mortensen takes a deep and abiding interest in everything which pertains to the material advancement of Hamlin township. Every enterprise intended to promote the advancement of Audubon county is certain to receive his hearty support. He is rated as one of the progressive citizens of the community in which he lives and the high respect in which he is held by all classes of people is a deserving compliment to an intelligent, broad-minded and most worthy man.

Hans Mortensen was born on May 13, 1877, in the province of Schleswig, Germany. He is the son of Nels and Carrie (Rattenborg) Mortensen, who were natives of Denmark and farmers. They were the parents of ten children, of whom Hans was the third. He received a good common-school education but, being the eldest son, he was, to his regret, compelled to quit school and go to work before he had proceeded far with his education.

When Hans Mortensen was three years of age, the family came to the United States, landing in New York City. After landing in this country, the family proceeded to Cass county, Iowa, locating near Atlantic, where they remained for nearly two years. Then they came to Audubon county and located near Gray. Later they moved to Sharon township and after that to Hamlin township, where the parents died.

Mr. Mortensen lived at home until he had reached his majority and then worked out by the month for one year. He was then married and rented land for three years, later purchasing one hundred and twenty acres in Sharon township. After five years, he sold this farm and purchased

eighty acres in Hamlin township. He lived upon this farm for four years. In 1910 Mr. Mortensen purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Hamlin township. This farm was without any material improvements at the time Mr. Mortensen acquired possession of it. Subsequently, he built a large ten-room house, with a bath, pantry, closets and all of the modern equipments for the up-to-date country house. It is a most modern home and has furnace, gaslights, waterworks, etc. Mr. Mortensen also built good barns, sheds, silos, etc. His silo holds one hundred and fifty tons of ensilage. The barn is a very large structure, fifty-two by sixty feet, and has a basement and a brick foundation.

On September 5, 1900, Mr. Mortensen was married to Elizabeth Juel, who was born on March 18, 1884, in Schleswig, Germany. She is the daughter of Nels and Mary (Carstensen) Juel, who came to the United States about 1894. Mr. and Mrs. Mortensen have one daughter, Valborg, who was born on October 26, 1904.

Mr. Mortensen has the most modern improvements on his farm that may be found in this section of the state of Iowa and he has a reputation of having the best set of buildings in Audubon county. The improvements cost approximately ten thousand dollars, outside of Mr. Mortensen's own work and other incidental expenses. He also has a splendid orchard. Mr. Mortensen helped to organize the Farmers Savings Bank and is a director of this bank at the present time. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers Threshing Company.

Politically, Hans Mortensen is a Democrat. He is at present the trustee of Hamlin township and is filling this office with credit to himself and to the people who elected him. The Mortensen family are members of the Danish Lutheran church and are active in the support of this denomination.

JAMES WILLIAM JENSEN.

Although James William Jensen, a successful farmer of Greeley township, Audubon county, Iowa, is a native son of this country, his parents were natives of Denmark. They located in this country, however, more than a half century ago. For several years James William Jensen was a successful school teacher in Audubon county, but gave up this profession for farming. His valuable and highly productive farm in Greeley township is an evidence of the wisdom of his choice in quitting the school room for the farm.

Mr. Jensen's parents were Hans and Bertha (Frederickson) Jensen, both natives of Denmark. Hans Jensen was a farmer in his native land and served the legal period in the Danish army. He came to America in 1863 when he was thirty years old. He first located in Wisconsin, where he bought a farm and farmed until 1869, six years after his arrival in America. In 1869 he removed to Shelby county, Iowa, and assisted in building the Rock Island railroad through Walnut. He also helped build the first house in Walnut. Later he purchased a farm in Shelby county. He lived in Shelby county for twelve years, and in the spring of 1881 he moved to Audubon county and purchased a farm. He farmed in Audubon county until 1894, when he retired, and during the succeeding years lived with his son, James William.

James William Jensen was born on August 3, 1869, in Shelby county, Iowa. He received his education in the country schools and after leaving the common schools he attended high school at Atlantic, Iowa. Then he taught for several years. In 1895 he purchased one hundred and twenty acres in Sharon township, Audubon county, and was engaged in general farming there. He now has two hundred and forty acres, but it is located in Greeley township. He feeds about a carload of cattle every year, and seventy-five head of hogs.

Mr. Jensen was married on August 17, 1894, to Matilda Peterson, daughter of Peter and Johannah (Larson) Peterson. Three children have been born to this marriage, Harvey, Eleanor and Leonard; the last-named died in infancy. Mrs. Jensen was born in Denmark. Her parents, who were also natives of that country, came to the United States in 1890, and located in Atlantic, Iowa. After being there a short time, they rented a farm in Shelby county, and then purchased a farm in Audubon county. Mrs. Jensen's parents are now living retired in Exira. They had eight children, Lawrence, Marten, Chris, Louis, Anna, Matilda, Albena, and Peter, who is deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. James William Jensen are members of the Seventh Day Adventist church. Mr. Jensen has been an elder in the church for a number of years, and is now serving in this capacity. He is identified with the fortunes of the Republican party, but has never been active in its councils. Nevertheless, he is interested in all civic matters and is considered a man whose support can always be depended upon when public improvements are proposed. He has done much to build up a wholesome and active community spirit and enjoys the confidence of his neighbors and fellow citizens.

CHRIS KNUTSEN.

The Knutsen family, which is well known in Oakfield township, Audubon county, Iowa, has as one of the representatives of the second generation, Chris Knutsen, who owns one hundred and forty acres of land in Oakfield township, and who was born on December 3, 1853, in Denmark, the son of Knud and Caroline (Phillipson) Knutsen. A farmer in his native land until he came to America in 1874, Knud Knutsen located in Cass county, Iowa, and there worked as a section hand on the railroad for one year, after which he removed to Audubon county and located in Oakfield township. One year later he purchased a farm of eighty acres and subsequently added forty acres to the original tract. He farmed this land until his death in 1906. His wife, the mother of Chris Knutsen, died in 1910. Knud and Caroline Knutsen had four children, Chris, Peter, Mary and Caroline.

Chris Knutsen, who was educated in the public schools of Denmark, came to America when he was eighteen years old, arriving here in 1871, three years before the arrival of his parents. He located at Atlantic, Iowa, temporarily, and there worked as a section hand on the Rock Island railroad for six years, and then went to Wyoming, where he worked for a time. Upon returning from Wyoming, he came to Oakfield township, Audubon county, and here purchased eighty acres of land in section 16, subsequently buying eighty acres more. Remaining in Oakfield township until 1904, he then moved to Cass county, Iowa, and remained there for five years, when he returned to Audubon county and purchased the farm upon which he now lives. This farm consists of one hundred and forty acres. Ordinarily Mr. Knutsen raises forty head of hogs every year, and by feeding a considerable portion of his grain to the hogs he has been able to derive a very satisfactory profit.

In January, 1880, nine years after coming to America, Chris Knutsen was married to Carrie Hansen, daughter of Hans N. and Ingabore Hansen. They had one child, Kearne, who was born shortly before the death of Mrs. Knutsen. After her death Mr. Knutsen was married to Sena Nelsen, daughter of Rasmus and Bertha Nelsen. Three children have been born to this second marriage, Bertha, Philip and Clarence.

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Knutsen are members of the Danish Lutheran church. A Democrat in politics, Mr. Knutsen has held only minor offices, but served efficiently as school director and road supervisor, two of the most important local offices in any community.

Like his brother, Peter, of Oakfield township, and his father before him, Chris Knutsen is a worthy citizen, a man who has conscientiously and honor-

ably discharged all of the duties devolving upon the citizen of a great democratic country. Mr. Knutsen has prospered since coming to this country, and no one is more willing than he to admit that this success is the result of the superior opportunities offered in this country. Mr. Knutsen is very popular with the people of Oakfield township.

NIELS P. HOEGH.

Difficult as it is to explain individual and personal successes in life, nevertheless it would appear that large successes are very closely related to large personal worth. During the twenty-year period from 1865 to 1885, hundreds of industrious and ambitious young Danes came to America to seek their fortune in a new land. In fact, many hundreds of them eventually settled in Audubon county, Iowa. It is a tribute to the enterprise of these splendid young emigrants that very few have failed to make good in the new world. Yet the exceptional success which has accompanied the efforts of perhaps a half dozen men in Audubon county arouses our curiosity and accentuates our interest in the peculiar qualifications which these few men possess at the outset and which were responsible for the larger measure of prosperity which they have enjoyed in their adopted country. Niels P. Hoegh, in one respect at least, is not different from the hundreds of his fellow countrymen who have settled in Audubon county, since his success was founded upon agriculture. Perhaps he was possessed of a superior quality of managerial ability. Perhaps he possessed greater foresight than many of the young men who came here with him. In any event his success has been large, measured not only by the wealth and capital he has accumulated, but by the conspicuous position he has taken in the civic and political life of this section.

Niels P. Hoegh, who is president of the Brayton Savings Bank, of Brayton, Iowa, the Farmers Bank at Elkhorn, Iowa, and the Farmers Savings bank of Atlantic, Iowa, and the Brayton Lumber Company, besides owning two thousand acres of land in Audubon and Cass counties, was born on September 12, 1847, in Denmark, and is the son of Jorgen P. and Anna Katherine Hoegh, both natives of that country. The former, a carpenter by trade, followed this occupation in his native land, and when he came to America lived retired with his children, of whom there were six, as follow: Peter, who is still in Denmark; Jorgen, deceased; Mettie Marie,



NIELS P. HOEGH AND FAMILY

who lives near Davenport; Anna Marie, who is deceased; Niels P., and a daughter who died in infancy.

Many young men enjoy exceptional success in life because of the good start they received from an inheritance or gift at the beginning of their career, but this is not the case with Niels P. Hoegh, whose splendid fortune is the consequence of his own personal efforts. He had no better educational advantages than hundreds of his countrymen who came to America, and who have been less successful than he. He did, however, receive a practical common school education, and after leaving school worked out as a farm hand in his native land. Wages are very much less in Denmark than in this country, and for Mr. Hoegh's last year's labors in that country he received only thirty dollars.

After locating near Davenport, Iowa, he was compelled to look for work for five weeks, and his first job was cleaning a cellar, for which he was paid seventy-five cents. From this time he was always busy and for the most part always able to find something to do. After working near Davenport for three years as a farm hand, he spent one year working for the railroads, afterwards went to Colorado, where he worked in a silver mine for three years. Upon returning to Davenport, he remained there a short time, and then removed, about 1875, to Audubon, and was married, and located on a farm which he had purchased. This farm of fifty-three acres was the nucleus of the two thousand acres of land he has since acquired. This large estate has been built up from year to year, a little land added here and a little there. Seven hundred acres of the two thousand acres which Mr. Hoegh owns is covered with timber. Mr. Hoegh's fortune has been built around the first fifty-three acres he owned, but before that it was founded on one hundred dollars in gold, which he brought with him to America, which he exchanged for one hundred and thirty-eight dollars in greenbacks in 1868.

On June 10, 1875, Niels P. Hoegh was married to Mary Katherine Knoss, the daughter of Christian Knoss. Eight children were born to this marriage, as follow: George, died on May 17, 1915, married Anna Hoogensen and had four children, Evelyn, Raymond, Harvey and Mildred; William, married Anna Johnson and had three children, Theodore, Harry and Leo; Annie, married Hans R. Hansen and had four children, Edwin, Dagma, Wilbur and Gradis; Walter, married Bertha Hansen and had one child, Adel; Arthur N., married Hannah Walters and had one child, Erma; Benjamin, married Emma Clauson; Katrina, married Walter Hansen; Edward lives at home.

Mrs. Hoegh and her parents were natives of Denmark, and located at Davenport, Iowa, in pioneer times. After the death of her father, her mother came to Audubon county and lived in her home.

Niels P. Hoegh has never divided his energies and perhaps that is the explanation for his success. A member of the Danish Lutheran church, he and his wife and family have done their part in behalf of this church, and the Hoeghs are people of strong religious inclinations. But Mr. Hoegh has never permitted his attention to be diverted by politics, and although an ardent Republican, the only office he has ever held is that of county supervisor, which he held for nine years. In this office he made a commendable record, and one which was a credit to himself and to the people of Audubon county. Naturally he gave to the office the same business-like attention that he has always given to his own private affairs.

As suggested in the beginning of this sketch, it is probable that Niels P. Hoegh's success is founded upon his own personal worth as much as upon anything else; upon his cordial relations with the public; upon his honorable and fair dealing in the business affairs of life. Men have learned to believe in him, and as they have believed in him he has been able not only to bestow favors upon his business associates, but likewise he himself has been able to profit by these relations. He is a very worthy man, and a good citizen of this great county.

ABEL S. STONE.

Abel S. Stone, a farmer of Exira township, Audubon county, Iowa, and the proprietor of sixty acres of land in this township, was born in Denmark, May 1, 1865, the son of Soren Anderson and Caroline (Sorensen) Stone, both natives of Denmark. Soren Anderson Stone was a laborer in his native land, and is still living in that country. His wife is deceased. They were the parents of seven children, Miller, Jens, Frederick, Amelia, Abel S., Peter and Christina.

Abel S. Stone was educated in the schools of his native land, and after leaving school he took up carpenter work and followed this until he came to America in 1884. He located in Cass county, Illinois, where he worked on a farm for two years. He then took up butter making and followed this trade at St. Charles, Illinois, for several years, when he came to Elkhorn, Iowa, and worked as a butter maker there for a year. Mr. Stone then removed

to West Hamlin, Audubon county, where he bought a farm of eighty acres, farming it for three years, after which he removed to Oakfield township, and lived there for two years. He then sold out and bought the place upon which he is now living. Mr. Stone has invested thirty-five hundred dollars in improving the place, which is one of the best-conducted small farms in the township. Mr. Stone feeds about fifty head of hogs each year for the market, and has made a success of raising corn, feeding it to hogs.

Abel S. Stone was married on November 1, 1895, to Mary K. Jessen, the daughter of Peter and Maren (Peterson) Jessen. To this union six children have been born, Chris, Caroline, May, Peter, Adelbert and Elmer, the last named being deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Stone are members of the Danish Lutheran church. Mr. Stone is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and is identified with the Republican party.

CHARLES LEWIS BISOM.

Charles Lewis Bisom, a well-known citizen of Brayton, Iowa, and a retired druggist of this city, was born on June 16, 1858, in Berkeley county, West Virginia, the son of John and Elizabeth (Hauck) Bisom, both of whom were natives of Germany. The former came to America when seventeen years old, and after locating in Berkeley county, West Virginia, worked as a laborer for some time, and then purchased a farm and was engaged in farming until 1865; when he removed to Ogle county, Illinois, remaining there only five months, and then removing to Poweshiek county, Iowa, where he purchased a farm of two hundred and forty acres. Here he farmed until a few years before his death, when he retired, living thereafter with his son Dan, at Primghar, Iowa, until his death in 1894, at the age of eighty-three. His wife, who was born in 1821, is also deceased. To them were born the following children: Henry, John, Dan, George, Charles, Eliza, Susan, Maggie, Laura, Mabel and Fannie.

After having received a common-school education in the public schools of Poweshiek county, Iowa, Charles Lewis Bisom attended Western College, at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and later the State Normal College, at Cedar Falls, Iowa. Upon leaving school he was engaged in teaching for two years, and then began working in the drug store at Audubon as a clerk for Dr. J. F. Cloughly. Here he remained for one and one-half years, when he became

assistant auditor of Audubon county, which position he held for a short time, and then worked for William Cloughly a year. Finally he was prepared for the examination as a pharmacist, and after passing this examination began business for himself in Brayton, Iowa. Altogether, Mr. Bisom was engaged in this business at Brayton for a period of twenty-three years, and during six years of this period he also was engaged in the purchase and sale of live stock.

In September, 1880, Charles Lewis Bisom was married to Elizabeth Wattles, and to them have been born five children, as follow: Imo, Edna, Ethel, Charles and John. Imo married Raymond Miller, and they have three children, Lucele, Cosetta and Charles. Edna married Henry Hansen, and they have three children, Mack, Majorie and Charles Donald. Ethel married Earl Brown.

Mr. Bisom has always been identified with the Republican party. He is an ardent believer in the principles announced by Abraham Lincoln, and has been influential in the local councils of the party. He is a member of the Masonic lodge, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which he is a past grand, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Charles Lewis Bisom has been known as a good citizen in the community where he has lived so long. During his active career in business he enjoyed a good trade, which was founded upon honorable and square dealing with the public. Courteous to everybody, broad and liberal in his views, he today enjoys many warm and ardent friendships with the people of this community.

JESSE NYMAND.

Jesse Nymand, a retired farmer of Oakfield township, a native of Germany, was born on March 9, 1858, in Schleswig, the son of Hans and Catherine (Miller) Nymand, both natives of Germany. The former, a farmer, was born in 1826, and died in 1888. He owned a small farm which he cultivated until his death. His wife, who was born in 1828, died in 1892, four years after the death of her husband. They had eight children: Jesse, Hans, Lawrence, Christian, Christena, Meta Marie, Katherine and Marie.

The five years immediately preceding Mr. Nymand's coming to America he spent in Copenhagen, Denmark, working there at various things. He had received his education in his native land, and had gone to Copenhagen immediately after finishing his school training. In 1882 Mr. Nyman came to

America, and located near Brayton, Iowa, where he worked as a farm hand for one year. The following summer he spent in Colorado working on the railroad, and the next winter he spent in Arizona. From this time until 1883 he was located near San Francisco, where he was engaged in working on a farm.

In 1883 Jesse Nymand came to Audubon county, at which time he and his brother, Hans, purchased a farm of two hundred and forty acres in Oakfield township. They operated this farm from 1883 until 1908, in partnership, when Jesse sold his interest to Hans. Jesse Nymand purchased a ten-acre lot in Brayton, and here he is now living retired.

Jesse Nymand was married in 1886, four years after coming to America, and one year after coming to Audobon county, to Anna Christena Hansen, the daughter of Hans Hansen. After the death of Mrs. Anna (Hansen) Nymand, Mr. Nymand was married to Christena Jacobsen, who has been the mother of one child, Catherine. Catherine married Walter Nelson, and they have two children, Catherine and Florence.

Mr. and Mrs. Nymand are members of the Danish Lutheran church, and formerly Mr. Nymand was a trustee in this church. He has also served as township trustee, having been nominated and elected as a Democrat, the party with which he has been affiliated since coming to America.

Mr. Nymand has a host of friends in this section of Audobon county, where he is well known for his quiet and unassuming manners, and for his genial and friendly disposition. He is a man who has never failed to discharge faithfully and conscientiously, not only the duties of a private citizen, but the duties of a public official. He well deserves the confidence and esteem which he so generally enjoys.

WILLIAM GEORGE ONKEN.

One of the best-known and most successful farmers of the last generation in Audubon county, Iowa, was the late William George Onken, who passed away at the age of sixty-five, October 27, 1913. Born in Schleswig, Germany, April 13, 1848, he was the son of Hoegh and Mary Onken, both natives of Germany, where the former was a farmer and where both lived and died.

The German schools have always been known for their thoroughness and particularly for the skill with which they master local problems. It

is the rule in this country that young men who expect to be farmers will be educated in those things which will best fit them for their vocation. It was in the German schools that William George Onken received his education and he was therefore well equipped for farming when he had completed his school days. After leaving school, he worked with his father on the farm until he came to America.

After arriving in this new country, the late William George Onken located in Marne, Iowa, remaining with his uncle on a farm near that place for two years. Coming to Audubon county in 1873, at a time when there were very few settlers in the county, he purchased two hundred and eighty acres of land on Buck creek and farmed there for sixteen years; when he sold out, purchasing two hundred acres of land near Brayton, Iowa, where he was engaged in farming until two years before his death. He then retired, having accumulated a substantial competence, and moved to Brayton, where he died.

On August 22, 1874, William George Onken was married to Elizabeth Hardwick, who was born on February 12, 1856, a daughter of George and Mary (Beech) Hardwick, both natives of England, where they lived and died. Elizabeth Hardwick came to America with her brother and located on Buck creek, in Audobon county.

To Mr. and Mrs. William George Onken were born nine children: Mary, Anna, Amelia, Bertha, William, Henry, Kate, Fred and Lillie. Mary married Peter Leander and had six children; George, Minnie, Clarence, Harry, Bessie and Mabel, the latter two deceased. Anna married George Astings and has one child, Pearl. Amelia became the wife of John Krack and has two children, Carl and Donald. Bertha is the wife of Henry Bell and has two children, Henry and Glynn. William married Anna Anderson and has two children, Walter and Ethel. Henry married Lena Anderson. Kate is the wife of Asa Brewer and has one child, Gerald. Fred married Dorothy Anderson and has one child, Mildred. Lillie married George Anderson and has one child, Harry.

William George Onken was a Democrat and held several offices of local importance. He served many years as road supervisor, and was also a school director and served as president of the Oakfield creamery one year. The Onken family are all members of the Lutheran church.

At the time of his death, William George Onken had a host of friends in Audobon county and today, now that he is gone, his memory is revered, not only by his loving sons and daughters, but by those friends who knew

him for his worth as a neighbor and citizen. He was a man of generous and kindly impulses, a friend to the poor and charitable to a fault. He took a keen interest in his family and his home, and at his death his children were well provided with the comforts of life.

CHARLES A. PARDEE.

Charles A. Pardee, the proprietor of "Pleasant View Farm," in Greeley township, Audubon county, Iowa, and one of the well known farmers of this township, was born on August 7, 1867, in Johnson county, Iowa, the son of Edward L. and Marinda (Burdick) Pardee, natives of New York and Vermont, respectively. The latter came to Iowa with her parents, and the former was a young man when he came to Iowa alone. He was a soldier in the Civil War, serving in the Twenty-second Iowa Infantry as a private for three years, and was wounded in the hand at the battle of Port Gibson. In 1871 the family moved to Pottawattamie county, Iowa, where the father purchased land. In 1881 he again removed to Audubon county, Iowa, where he purchased a farm in Lincoln township, living there until 1890, about which time he made several moves, finally purchasing a farm south of Walnut, Iowa, where he lived for several years. Subsequently, however, he retired and moved to Omaha, where he lived until his death, and where the mother is still living. They were the parents of nine children, as follow: Mrs. Eva Travis, Edwin L., Charles A., George, Mrs. Mary Martin, Mrs. Etta Martin, William, Mrs. Inez Lahr and Roy.

Charles A. Pardee lived at home until twenty-one years of age, having in the meantime received a common-school education. After leaving home he worked out at farm work in the summer and taught school in the winter, teaching seven or eight terms of school in Lincoln township.

About 1892 Mr. Pardee purchased eighty acres of land in Lincoln township, and farmed it for one year before he was married. After his marriage he rented his farm out and he himself rented one hundred and sixty acres of land, selling his eighty-acre farm in 1897. In 1906 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land north of Ross in Cameron township, living there until 1909, when he purchased two hundred acres of land in section 11, Greeley township. Although fairly well improved at the time he purchased it, Mr. Pardee has built another large barn and has made many minor improvements. The farm has been named and registered as

the "Pleasant View Farm." Mr. Pardee is engaged in general farming and stock raising; he owns a few thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle, but has never undertaken to make a specialty of raising this breed. Gradually, however, he expects to acquire only thoroughbred live stock of all kinds.

On May, 1897, Charles A. Pardee was married in Manning, Carroll county, Iowa, to Celia Martin, who was born, July 22, 1871, in Fulton county, Illinois, and who is the daughter of John and Jane (Roy) Martin, who came to Audubon county about 1884. Mrs. Pardee is a sister of the two Martin boys who married Mr. Pardee's two sisters. Mr. and Mrs. Pardee are the parents of eight children: Earl, born on June 22, 1898; Giles, December 29, 1900; Grace, June 29, 1902; Ernest, November 19, 1904; Irma, November 22, 1906; Wayne, November 17, 1908; Mary, August 2, 1910, and Bernard, May 22, 1912.

Upon the formation of the Progressive party, Mr. Pardee identified himself with this organization. For many years he has been a loyal and devoted follower of Colonel Roosevelt, and has held firmly to the policies for which he stands. The only office which he has ever held is that of township constable.

For many years Charles A. Pardee has been considered an influential man in the community in which he lives. He is a man who is well read and well informed and who not only has kept himself fully advised as to present-day progress in farming, but in other lines of endeavor as well. He has many friends in this section of Audubon county. The Pardee family are all members of the Catholic church.

FRED KLINE.

Fred Kline, one of the successful farmers of Audubon township, Audubon county, Iowa, who, with his wife owns an excellent farm of two hundred acres in this township, was born, July 9, 1867, in Johnson county, Iowa, and is the son of Alexander and Este (Martin) Kline, natives of Pennsylvania and Virginia, respectively, the former having been born near Pittsburgh.

Alexander Kline's father, having died before Alexander was born, and his mother having died when he was three years old, he was bound out to one of his uncles, where he remained until he was eighteen years old, when he ran away and, in company with some drovers, he left Pennsylvania for

Indiana; from Indiana he went to Illinois, and from Illinois to Iowa, about 1863. Following his marriage in Johnson county, Iowa, he came west to Audubon county in 1871, arriving in the fall of that year, when he purchased eighty acres of land from the railroad company, paying six dollars an acre. After improving the farm and holding it for five years, he bought eighty acres just north of the original farm, and after improving that, keeping it seven years, he sold out and purchased eighty acres one mile east of the second farm, where he lived for three years; but as a consequence of bad luck and various misfortunes, was compelled to return to renting. After renting land for eight years he purchased a hundred and sixty acres east of Exira, where he lived for six years, when he again sold out and bought a farm in Audubon township, where he lived for a few years and then retired to Exira. After living in Exira for some time, he came to live with his son, Andrew J., with whom he remained until his death. Although a wagon maker by trade, he was always more pleased to work at the carpenter's trade, or with an old threshing machine. For thirty-six consecutive seasons he operated a threshing machine in Audubon county. Alexander and Este (Martin) Kline were the parents of nine children, six sons and three daughters, of whom Fred, the subject of this sketch, was the second born.

Receiving only a very limited education in the country schools of the various neighborhoods where he lived, Fred Kline lived at home until twenty-five years of age, at which time he was married and began renting land. After renting for one year he purchased sixty acres of land in section 17 of Audubon township but held it only one year, when he sold out and began working for his father-in-law, continuing for four years. After renting land southeast of Exira for four years, he farmed a hundred and twenty acres of land owned by Mrs. Kline, located in section 21, Audubon township, and in 1907 purchased an additional eighty acres, where he now lives, having removed the buildings from the first farm to their present location.

On September 3, 1891, Mr. Kline was married in Audubon to Leona Davis, daughter of William and Martha (Davis) Davis, both natives of Wales. The former came to America with his parents, David and Lucy Davis when five years old, and first settled in Pennsylvania near Minersville, where they lived for several years, and where he was a coal miner for more than forty years. He followed his occupation, however, in different parts of the country. Mrs. Kline's father and mother both were married twice. Each had one child by a former marriage. David, the father's son by his first wife, lived in St. Louis, and Mrs. Elizabeth Hill, the mother's

child by her first husband lived near Exira. Mrs. Kline is one of four children born to her parents. One is deceased and the others, William and Frank, are living in Audubon county. About 1879 the Davis family came to Audubon county, and there established a family home, originally buying land from the Rock Island railroad.

To Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kline have been born five children, as follow: Jay D.; Eunice, who married Frank Klemish, and who is the mother of one child, Lawrence; Veda, Florence and Chester.

A Republican in politics, Mr. Kline has served as school director. The Kline family are supporters and frequent attendants at the Congregational church, although they are not church members.

Lately, Mr. Kline has improved his farm by the erection of a large fourteen-room house with baths, waterworks, and every other modern convenience. His barns are kept in first-class condition, and he is numbered among the up-to-date and enterprising citizens of this county, a worthy citizen in every respect.

FRED WAHLERT, SR.

For many years an active and well-known farmer of Audubon county, Fred Wahlert, Sr., who has passed the age of seventy-five, is still capable of doing the work of a much younger man. Since retiring from the farm and moving to Exira, he has taken the agency for the Greeley Mutual Insurance Company and also the agency for the State Tornado and Fire Insurance Company and is proving a very capable representative in this section for these companies. When Mr. Wahlert retired from farming, he owned four hundred and eighty acres of well-improved land. He now owns one of the most splendid dwellings and residence properties in the town of Exira.

Fred Wahlert, Sr., was born on March 29, 1840, in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, the son of John and Arsby (Starman) Wahlert, also natives of Schleswig-Holstein.

Mr. Wahlert received a good education in the schools of his native land and after leaving school, worked out as a farm hand for twelve years. When he was twenty-six years old, or in 1866, he came to America, and locating in Moline, Illinois, worked in a saw-mill for one year. Mr. Wahlert then obtained a position with the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad as a fireman and was employed in this capacity for two years. At

the end of that time he rented a farm in Henry county, Illinois, where he farmed for twelve years. Coming to Audubon county in 1881, he purchased two hundred and forty acres of land, and the same year Mr. Wahlert's parents crossed the Atlantic from the old country and came to Audubon county, where they lived until their deaths.

On August 18, 1862, Fred Wahlert, Sr., was married to Anna Polm, the daughter of John Polm, who also was a native of Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wahlert, Sr., have had five children: Fred, Jr., John, Carrie, Winnie and Anna. Fred Jr., married Emma Porter and has five children, Clarence, Elva, Thelma, Randall and Raymond; John married Emma Fronz and has five children, Esther, Harry, Francis, Cora and Mary Elizabeth; Carrie is the wife of Arthur Schweneker and has six children, Clara, Sarah, Elsie, Peter, Carl and Helen; Winnie became the wife of Louis Schweneker; Anna married John Kibbens.

A Democrat in politics, Mr. Wahlert has served as township trustee and held other minor offices in the community where he lived while engaged in active farming. The Wahlert family are all members of the German Lutheran church. Mr. Wahlert is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and also the Maccabees. He and his wife are members of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Fred Wahlert, Sr., is not only well known in Exira and the surrounding country, but he is also popular as a man of exceptional intelligence and kindly manners. Out of the toil of his early years he has saved a substantial competence for his declining days, which he is expecting to pass in peace and plenty.

JOHN C. TIBBEN.

John C. Tibben, a representative member of one of the old families of Audubon county, which has long been prominent in the agricultural life of this county and himself the owner of three hundred and forty-two acres of land in Audubon township, was born on March 24, 1872, in Rock Island county, Illinois, the son of John W. and Catherine (Schweneker) Tibben. John W. and Catherine Tibben were natives of Hanover and Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, respectively, the former being only fourteen or fifteen years old when he was brought to America by his parents, Henry and Anna (Gummers) Tibben. After landing at New Orleans, the family had proceeded as far as St. Louis up the river, when John C. Tibben's grandfather

was taken violently ill and died of cholera. His grandmother, the next spring, brought the family, including Mr. Tibben's father, to Port Byron, Illinois, where they lived until 1880, when Mr. Tibben's father and mother came to Audubon county, and where the mother lived until her death at the age of ninety years. John C. Tibben's father was married in Rock Island county, Illinois, to Catherine Schweneker, who had come with her parents to America when about seventeen years old in 1862. They purchased three hundred and fifteen acres of unimproved land from the Rock Island & Pacific Railroad Company in 1877, paying seven dollars an acre for it. The first house, a rude structure, eighteen by twenty-six feet, with twelve-foot posts, served as a home until 1885, when it was remodeled and additions made to it. The parents lived on the home farm in section 2 of Audubon township until their death. The father had added eighty-six acres more to the farm, and at the time of his death, owned about four hundred acres.

John C. Tibben, the subject of this sketch, after living at home until he was twenty-one years old, was then married and rented land for two years. He then purchased one hundred and sixty acres in section 25 of Greeley township, where he lived for seven years. His father, having died, he came to live with his mother, making the change on November 14, 1900. In 1902 Mr. Tibben sold his Greeley township farm, having purchased one hundred and eighty acres of the home place. He has added to this tract, in the meantime, until he now owns three hundred and forty-two acres. Forty acres were added at one time, forty acres at another time and eighty-two acres in the last tract. Mr. Tibben has one other set of buildings besides those on the home place.

On December 16, 1891, John C. Tibben was married in Audubon county, Iowa, to Anna Wahlert, who was born on March 30, 1872, in Henry county, Illinois, and who is the daughter of Fred and Anna (Polm) Wahlert, natives of Holstein, Germany. Mr. Tibben's mother and Mrs. Tibben's mother were chums during school days in the old country.

Mr. and Mrs. Tibben have been the parents of ten children, nine of whom are living: Fred, born on July 24, 1892; Frank, February 13, 1894, who married Lillie Creese and has two children, Donald and Merlin Edwin; Laura, April 14, 1896, who married Peter J. Schwab; George, December 5, 1900; Warren, July 29, 1903; Arnold, April 27, 1906; Veda, December 24, 1908; Gertrude, December 18, 1910, and Ruth, December 17, 1913.

John C. Tibben is a Republican in politics and has served as township assessor for five years. Although the Tibben family were baptized in the German Lutheran church, they are not members of this church.

Mr. Tibben is not only one of the most extensive farmers of this section, but he is one of the most skillful. He has watched closely the modern developments in farming and, as fast as they have appeared, has adopted the improved and scientific processes. Mr. Tibben is popular in his community and is considered an excellent judge and a successful practitioner of scientific farming.

GEORGE J. MEYER.

George J. Meyer, of Audubon township, Audubon county, Iowa, who first came to this county in 1885, and who has been prominent in the business, civic and fraternal life of the township for many years, was born January 17, 1860, in Rock Island county, Illinois. He is the son of John J. and Magdalena (Barnholt) Meyer, natives of Holstein, Germany, who were married in their native land and who came to this country about 1854. Mr. and Mrs. John J. Meyer, after landing in New York, journeyed to Chicago, where they lived for a time. From Chicago they moved to Moline, in Rock Island county, Illinois, and here the father lived as a farmer until his death, following which the mother moved to Des Moines. They were the parents of seven children, five of whom are living, as follow: Mrs. Eliza Ash, Mrs. Mary Mason, George J., Robert and Henry. George J. is the only member of the family living in Audubon county.

George J. Meyer attended the common schools in Illinois until fifteen years old, being unable to obtain a thorough education. When twenty-one years old he started in life for himself, working out for a time by the month. Later, he rented the home farm and operated that until 1891, when he came to Audubon county, where he purchased a hundred and twenty acres of land in section 9, Audubon township. This farm was only slightly improved and Mr. Meyer has since erected a large house, barn, cribs and other buildings, making it one of the most highly-improved farms of the township.

On February 10, 1885, Mr. Meyer was married to Anna Jacobsen, who was born in Schleswig, Germany, and who is the daughter of Carl and Ida (Volck) Jacobsen, natives of Germany, born near Kiel. They, after coming to the United States, first lived in Rock Island county, Illinois, and in 1885 they moved to Audubon county, Iowa.

After Mr. Meyer's marriage, he and his wife returned to Illinois, and lived there until 1891. Of the ten children born to Mr. and Mrs. Meyer,

only seven are now living. Charles, George and Nora died during an epidemic of diphtheria in the fall of 1892. The living children are, Walter, who was born March 10, 1887, and married Nettie Tibben; John, June 1, 1892; Nellie, December 25, 1894; Ida, September 12, 1896; Robert, May 13, 1899; Magdalena, March 10, 1901, and Earl, June 21, 1904.

A member of the Free and Accepted Masons and the Modern Brotherhood of America, Mr. Meyer is considered prominent in fraternal circles in this vicinity. Mr. and Mrs. Meyer are also members of the Eastern Star, the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Masonic lodge. Both are members at Exira. Although Mr. Meyer was formerly a Democrat, he has been an independent voter during late years. Mr. and Mrs. Meyer were baptized in the Lutheran church, of which denomination their parents were members. Mr. and Mrs. Meyer's children are members of the Audubon township Christian church, and Mr. Meyer was one of the substantial contributors to the fund raised in connection with the organization of this church.

George J. Meyer believes in keeping only the best stock obtainable and was one of the leading organizers of the Audubon Township Creamery Company, of which he has been treasurer for more than twelve years. Mr. Meyer is a prominent citizen; is a man of strong convictions, and being aggressive in his attitude, is a natural leader of men. The Meyer family are popular in Audubon township.

ANTON PETERSEN.

A popular farmer of Audubon township, Audubon county, Iowa, who since 1909 has owned a hundred and sixty acres of land in section 15, where he now lives, is Anton Petersen, born on March 10, 1861, in Schleswig, Germany, and the son of Peter N. and Marie (Kruse) Petersen, also probably natives of Schleswig. Mr. Petersen, whose fortunes have survived the loss sustained in a disastrous fire, makes a specialty of dairying, and has been very successful in mixed farming.

Mr. Petersen's father, a day laborer in Germany, had nine children, five of whom are deceased, and four of whom are still living. Those living are, Nels, a former resident of Audubon county and a merchant at Brayton for several years; Nicoline, who lives in Schleswig, Germany; Nes, who lives near Elkhorn, Shelby county, and Anton, the subject of this sketch. The deceased children are, Anna, Martin, Mary, Anna Marie and an infant son.

After attending school until about sixteen years old, Anton Petersen worked out by the month, until nineteen, and then came to the United States in the fall of 1880, settling first in Pottawattamie county, Iowa, where his brothers live. After working on a farm for about a year and a half, he began working for the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad as a section hand, and was so employed for three years. He then rented a farm in Shelby county, and continued as a renter for twenty-four years, living on one farm for sixteen years. In 1909 he purchased a hundred and sixty acres of land in section 15 of Audubon township, and here he now lives. While living in Shelby county, his premises were burned out, and on that occasion he lost many valuable records.

In January, 1880, before coming to the United States, Mr. Petersen was married to Anna Smith, who was born on December 14, 1859, in Schleswig, when it was a part of Denmark. She is the daughter of Hans J. and Christena (Hase) Smith, the former of whom was a native of Schleswig, and the latter a native of Aalborg, Denmark. Only a few years after Mr. and Mrs. Petersen had come to this country, Mrs. Petersen's parents came over also. They first located in Illinois and after living in that state for five years, removed to Minnesota, where they lived for twelve years. After the death of the father, while the family was living in Minnesota, the mother returned to Illinois, where some of the children lived. Four brothers and one sister lived to maturity, as follow: Christian, John, Martin, Peter and Mrs. Bertha Shafer. Martin came to the United States before Mrs. Peterson, his sister, and the wife of the subject of this sketch, but his whereabouts are unknown. Peter lives in Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Petersen have been the parents of eleven children, as follow: Christena, who was born on January 20, 1881, married Nels Nelsen, and they had five children at the time of the father's death, James William, Anton, Andrew and Anna; Mary, October 1, 1883, married Nels Salmonsen, and they live in Montana, and have seven children, Elmer, Bertha, Arthur, Martha, Anna, Carl and Peter; Peter, August 30, 1885; Hans, December 10, 1887; Andrew, September 2, 1888; Anna, August 30, 1891, and married Jerry Josephsen, of Adair county, by whom she has had three children, Esther, Elvera and Carl; Martha, January 10, 1893; Lena, February 22, 1895; Arthur, May 23, 1897; Clara, August 23, 1899, and Anton, May 26, 1903.

A Republican in politics, Mr. Petersen has held no offices. He is engaged in general farming and stock raising, and his success as a farmer is due to the close attention which he has paid to his vocation and to the

study which he has made of the improved methods and to his capacity for putting those methods into effect. Popular in the neighborhood where he lives, he has had a commendable part in every worthy enterprise of his vicinity.

JOHN NISSEN.

John Nissen, one of the more extensive farmers of this county, and the only member of the Nissen family who has come to Audubon county, was born on June 14, 1867, in Schleswig, Germany, the son of John and Lena (Jacobson) Nissen, both of whom were natives of Schleswig, Germany. John Nissen, Sr., a farmer in his native land, came to America in 1869, and located in Scott county, Iowa, where he rented a farm for eight years, and then removed to Shelby county, Iowa. There he purchased three hundred and twenty acres and increased his holdings eventually to five hundred and twenty acres. He was engaged in general farming and stock raising until his retirement a few years ago, when he removed to Harlan. He is a veteran of the Danish-German War of 1864, having served during the entire period of that memorable struggle. John, Sr., and Lena (Jacobson) Nissen had seven children, Chris, Charles, Peter, Hattie, Minnie, Christina and John, Jr. The mother of these children died on November 20, 1911.

John Nissen, who has made a very flattering success as a farmer, and who now owns two hundred and eighty acres of land in Oakfield township, eighty acres of land in Greeley township, and forty acres of land in Hamlin township, Audubon county, was educated in the public schools of Shelby county, Iowa, and after leaving school farmed with his father until he reached his majority, when he rented land and began farming for himself. After three years he purchased a hundred and twenty acres in Hamlin township, Audubon county, and here farmed for three years, when he sold out and purchased two hundred acres in Shelby county, and farmed there for five years. After selling the Shelby county farm, Mr. Nissen purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land in Jackson township, Shelby county, and there was engaged as a farmer for seven years, when he sold out once more, and purchased four hundred and eighty-seven acres in Cass and Adair counties. There he was engaged in general farming for four years, and once more he sold out and purchased the farm in Audubon county, upon which he is now living. In this farm he has invested about ten thousand dollars for improvements of various kinds, such as ditches, drains and out-

buildings. Ordinarily Mr. Nissen raises fifty acres of corn, and feeds about one hundred head of hogs and seventy-head of cattle every year.

On December 2, 1896, John Nissen was married to Esther Mortensen, the daughter of Peter and Mary Mortensen. Three children, Peter, John and Warren, have been born to this marriage. All of them are living at home with their parents.

Esther Mortensen, although born in Shelby county, Iowa, is a daughter of native-born Danish parents, who came to America during the early seventies, and located in Shelby county, Iowa, being among the early settlers of that county. Her father purchased a farm, and here was occupied as a farmer until his death, March 25, 1903. His wife is living at Harlan, Iowa. Peter and Mary Mortensen were the parents of eleven children, eight of whom are now living, namely: Mary, John, Marten, Samuel, Fred, Louis, William and Mrs. Nissen.

The success of John Nissen as a farmer in this state is not a matter of accident, since he is possessed of indomitable energy and splendid business ability. He has always been a splendid judge of farm values, and out of the many trades, purchases and sales he has made he has been able to make very satisfactory profits. His reputation for honorable and square dealing in the various communities where he has lived has also been an important factor in his success.

HERMAN HAMMANN.

One of the older citizens of Audubon township, Audubon county, and one of the longest residents of this community is Herman Hammann, a well-known farmer of this township. Mr. Hammann was born on February 16, 1847, in Luxemburg, Germany, and is the son of a Joachim and Marguerite (Henney) Hammann, natives of Lauenberg and Hanover, respectively. The mother's parents moved to Lauenberg, however, when she was a small child and the father, who was a watchman and shepherd, in his native land and the son of Henry Hammann, a native of Mecklenburg, became a farmer after immigrating to the United States. Joachim and Marguerite Hammann were the parents of five children: Henry, John, Mary, Kate and Herman.

On arrival at the United States in 1868, the Hammann family came direct from New York city to Iowa county, Iowa, and fifteen years later,

in 1883, moved to Audubon county, where the parents lived until their death.

After living at home until twenty-three years old, and having in the meantime obtained a good common school education, Herman Mammann worked in a brick yard for a time and then took up farm work. He worked nine years for his father after coming to Audubon county, and, at the end of this period, purchased eighty acres of land in section 12, of Audubon township, where he now lives. This farm has been entirely transformed under his ownership and management. It was originally railroad land, for which George Fago paid eight dollars an acre, but Mr. Hammann paid him twenty-two dollars and one-half per acre for it, when there was only a small twelve-by-sixteen-foot house and a small stable. The present house is an eight-room structure and the present barn, which displaced one twenty-four by sixteen feet, is forty-four by fifty-four feet. In addition to these buildings, Mr. Hammann has also erected substantial hog houses, chicken houses and other out-buildings.

When nearly forty years of age, Mr. Hammann was married on June 1, 1886, to Mary Echternacht, who was born on March 17, 1868, in Cedar county, Iowa, and who is the daughter of Jacob and Elvina (Shoemaker) Echternacht, both natives of Pennsylvania. The Shoemaker family is a very old one in the United States and are located in Cedar county, Iowa, since 1865. Coming to Audubon county about 1867, the family settled in Audubon township and were very early settlers here. The father died in Audubon county; the mother is still living in Pennsylvania, in Schuylkill county, where she was reared.

Mr. and Mrs. Hammann have been the parents of five children, of whom three are living: Emma, who was born on March 31, 1888, married Louis Bauer and has three children, Bertha, George and Walter; Bertha, January 7, 1892, married Edward Wahlert, and William, May 19, 1894, lives at home.

While Mr. Hammann is at present identified with the Republican party, he voted the Democratic ticket for many years. He has never held office. The Hammann family are members of the St. John's Lutheran church and Mr. Hammann's father, Joachim Hammann, was one of the organizers of this church and an active supporter of it all of his life.

Herman Hammann is a worthy citizen of this great county and a man, who by diligent industry and good management, has been unusually successful in agriculture. He is devoted to his chosen vocation and is a popular resident of Audubon township.

HERMAN C. WEDEMEYER.

Notwithstanding the fact that Herman C. Wedemeyer is still in the prime of life, he has succeeded in accumulating valuable farm real estate in Audubon county, where he now owns two hundred and thirty-five acres of land, all of which is located in section 14, Audubon township. Having begun with a tract of eighty acres, a farm which was poorly improved, at the time of his marriage, Mr. Wedemeyer has added to his holding from time to time, and now owns one of the best-improved farms in the township.

Herman C. Wedemeyer, who was born on January 8, 1871, in Guthrie county, Iowa, is the son of Jacob and Catherine (Earnest) Wedemeyer, natives of Hanover, Germany, who were married in their native land, and who owned a farm in that country. Herman C. is the only one of the ten children who was born in this country. Of the ten children born to Jacob and Catherine (Earnest) Wedemeyer, only five, Henry, Chris, Anna, Mary and Herman C., are still living. Mary is the only one of the children, except Herman C., who is living in Audubon county. Coming to the United States about 1868 or 1869, the Wedemeyer family settled in Guthrie county, Iowa, where the father purchased a relinquishment. The country was wild and the land was wild, and there were few except Indians for neighbors; the Indians, however, were friendly and they caused no trouble other than their begging. After living in Guthrie county until 1876, the Wedemeyer family came to Audubon county, where they purchased a hundred and sixty acres of land in Audubon township. Jacob Wedemeyer added to this original tract of land at various times until he owned five hundred and twenty acres in Audubon township, and a hundred and seventy-seven acres in Guthrie county. The parents lived in Audubon township until their death.

After having been educated in the common schools of his neighborhood and after living at home until he was grown, Herman C. Wedemeyer purchased eighty acres of land in 1893 at the time of his marriage, and it is upon this tract that he now lives. In the meantime he has added to the farm until he now owns two hundred and thirty-nine acres, all in section 14. Originally the land was in poor condition, and the eighty-acre tract had only a fourteen-by-eighteen-foot house with a shed roof. Mr. Wedemeyer lived in this house for four years, and then built his present large, nine-room home; barns, cribs, granaries and a garage have also been added.

On February 1, 1893, Herman C. Wedemeyer was married in Audubon county to Emma Bireline, who was born on September 19, 1872, in John-

son county, Iowa, and who is the daughter of Fred and Julia (Michels) Bireline, natives of Germany, who came to the United States at different times, and who were married in this country, either in Johnson county, Iowa, or in Chicago, Illinois. They had seven children, six of whom, Minnie, Mrs. Wedemeyer, Kittie, Fred, George and Anna, are living; Mary is deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman C. Wedemeyer have had two children, Clara, born on November 23, 1893, and Oscar, May 11, 1898; both of these children live at home with their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Wedemeyer and family are members of the St. John's German Lutheran church, and Mr. Wedemeyer's father was one of the charter members of the congregation and took a very active interest in church affairs. Herman C. Wedemeyer is especially interested in education. A Republican in politics, he has served as school director for several terms, and during his life in Audubon township has done everything possible to raise the educational standard of the public schools. He has done much in behalf of the public weal, and is popular in the neighborhood where he lives.

FRED GEBERS.

Fred Gebers, who resides in Audubon township, Audubon county, Iowa, where he is regarded as a successful farmer, has been able since coming to this country, more than a half century ago, to accumulate land until he now owns two hundred acres in Audubon county, and eighty acres in Adair county, Iowa.

Fred Gebers was born, October 5, 1853, in Hanover, Germany, and is the son of Peter and Marie (Peters) Gebers, also natives of Hanover, and farmers by occupation, and who were the parents of seven children. Of these children, Chris came to the United States and after living in Nebraska for five years, returned to his native land, and now lives there; Henry lives in Adair, Iowa, though he formerly lived in Audubon township, Audubon county; Fred, the third child, is the subject of this sketch; William, who lives near Adair, was an early settler in Audubon township; Marie never came to this country; Mrs. Anna Meisker, now deceased, lived in this country and died at Kansas City, Missouri; Mrs. Katie Wedemeyer, wife of Fred W. Wedemeyer, lives in Audubon township.

Fred Gebers, who was almost nineteen years old when he came to the

United States, and landed at New York city, had worked out at various occupations from the time he was eight years old. After arriving in America, he came west to Scott county, Iowa, and here worked on a farm for seven years. After making a trip back to his native land, where he remained six months, he then returned to the United States and located permanently in Audubon county. In 1883, Mr. Gebers purchased eighty acres of land of the Rock Island railroad, paying ten dollars an acre for it, and here, four years later, added forty acres more, east of the original tract, for which he paid fifteen dollars an acre. All of this land which lies in section 22 of Audubon township was raw prairie when it was purchased, and was absolutely devoid of any improvements. Mr. Gebers, after building a fifteen by twenty-four foot house, of a story and a half with two rooms downstairs, had the misfortune to lose the house by fire and subsequently built a splendid eight-room dwelling. In 1907 he built an excellent barn, and has made other substantial improvements upon the place. In 1908 he also purchased eighty acres of land, forty acres of which lie in section 15. This farm had a group of buildings, and was fairly well improved. In 1914 Mr. Gebers purchased eighty acres in Adair county.

On March 31, 1885, Fred Gebers was married in Audubon county to Mary Wedemeyer, who was born August 12, 1867, in Hanover, Germany. She was the daughter of Jacob and Kattie (Earnest) Wedemeyer. They came to the United States when Mrs. Gebers was about one and one-half years old, and after settling in Guthrie county, Iowa, later purchased land in Audubon township, Audubon county, and lived here on their farm until their death.

Mr. and Mrs. Gebers have been the parents of six children, five of whom are living, as follow: Henry, born on June 1, 1887; Emma, April 6, 1890, and who married Chris Krause, now deceased, left a family of three children, Viola, Evona and Lawrence; Susie, November 3, 1892; Anna, April 23, 1896; George, February 9, 1898, and Clara, who died at the age of two years.

The Gebers family are all members of St. John's German Lutheran church, Mr. Gebers having been a charter member of the congregation, and one of those men who helped the parish buildings. He is a Republican in politics, and has served at school director for several years.

There are many men no older than Fred Gebers, who were born in this country, and who from the time of their birth were familiar with our customs and manners, and who have not been able to accumulate a competence for their declining years. It is a tribute to the enterprise, economy

and prudence of thousands of German citizens, that they accumulate property and acquire wealth whatever may be their handicap. Moreover, they become good citizens of this great democracy, and Fred Gebers is a typical American citizen.

CHRIS HECKMANN, SR.

One of the fine farmers and well-known citizens of Audubon township is Chris Heckmann, Sr., who was born on August 24, 1846, in Baden, Germany, and who is the son of Henry and Christina (Betz) Heckman, also natives of Baden, where they were farmers. They had thirteen children, six of whom lived to maturity.

Chris Heckmann, Sr., attended school from the time he was six years old until he was fourteen. He then worked on his father's farm until he was twenty years of age, when he was compelled to serve in the army for three years. On the expiration of his enlistment he returned home and lived for nine months, when he was called back to the army. He served nine months more during the war with France in 1870 and 1871. After the end of this war, he returned home and lived another year, when he was married. He farmed for himself in his native land until 1883, when he came to the United States.

Landing in New York city in March, 1883, Mr. Heckmann came direct to Audubon county and here purchased eighty acres of prairie land upon which he built a small house, sixteen by twenty-four feet, with four rooms. In the beginning he had one team of horses. He has improved the farm and now has a good house, barn, cribs and one hundred and sixty acres of fertile and highly productive soil.

In March, 1872, Mr. Heckmann was married to Christiana Reichert, the daughter of Philip and Christiana (Mazer) Reichert. To this union have been born twelve children, five of whom died in one week during January, 1891, of diphtheria. A terrible misfortune, the loss of these children was a painful and distressing event in the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Heckmann. The living children are Louisa, born May 31, 1873, who married John Wahe and his six daughters, Frieda, Lena, Emma, Eva, Florence and Ida; Chris, Jr., January 27, 1875, who married Anna Schwarting and has seven children, John, Emma, Katherine, Walter, Martha, Fred and Clarence; Lena, May 2, 1876, is the wife of Benhard Vose and has six children, Anna, Carl, Helen, Nettie, Irma and Louise; Frieda, August 12,

1878, who became the wife of Julius Jergens and has five children, Millie, Fred, Martha, John and Arthur; Susie, January 20, 1891; Samuel, August 24, 1892, and Carl, January 16, 1894. The three latter children live at home. The mother of these children died on October 3, 1897, and on April 8, 1901, Mr. Heckmann was married to Mrs. Catherine (Leppert) Heckmann, the widow of Mr. Heckmann's eldest brother, Matthias.

Chris Heckmann, Sr., is a Democrat in politics, although he always votes for whom he considers to be the best man, regardless of political or party affiliations. Mr. Heckmann has held no offices nor has he had any desire to hold office. The Heckmann family are members of St. John's Lutheran church, of which Mr. Heckmann was one of the charter members. On his farm in Audubon township, he is engaged in general farming and stock raising and has been very successful.

Fired with ambition upon coming to America in 1883, Chris Heckmann has prospered year by year during his thirty-two years residence in his adopted country. Today he is an American at heart, devoted to the Democratic institutions of this country. Having worked industriously during his productive years, he has a substantial competence ahead for his declining years. There is no man living in Audubon township who does not respect and admire Chris Heckmann for his many good qualities.

ANDREW J. BAYLOR.

Andrew J. Baylor, who was born near Richmond, Virginia, August 2, 1849, came to the Hawkeye state from the old home in Virginia with his parents when five years old. He has seen the country grow from year to year and develop from raw prairie land and a few ridge roads here and there, to the richest farming land to be found anywhere in the whole country. Mr. Baylor's career has been closely identified with the history of Audubon county's agricultural progress and prosperity. Descended from an old Virginia family, Andrew J. Baylor's ancestors very probably fought in the American Revolution. He himself was named after Andrew Jackson, who was a friend of his father's family.

Mr. Baylor's parents were Christian and Marguerite (Argerbright) Baylor, also natives of Virginia. In July, 1854, when Andrew J. was only five years old, the family left Virginia and came to Johnson county, Iowa, driving through in wagons. When the family reached the Mississippi river,

the boatman refused to let a dog cross on the ferry boat and as the dog did not try to swim the river, the family supposed that he was lost. Subsequently, however, they heard that the dog had returned all the way to the old Virginia home.

Mr. Baylor's parents lived in Johnson county until their deaths. Mr. Baylor received such education as the schools of the pioneer times afforded and lived at home until about nineteen years old, when, in 1871, he came west to Audubon county. He worked in a brick-yard at Lewisville for three years and was then married and rented a farm for a few years. He had purchased five acres when he was married and built a house on it and here he lived for several years before selling the place. Mr. Baylor rented land for about nine years and then purchased eighty acres of land in section 9, of Audubon township. He has added to this farm until he now has two hundred acres of land in section 9 and forty acres in section 10 of Audubon township. He is today one of the most successful and extensive farmers of Audubon township.

On February 19, 1874, Andrew J. Baylor was married in Exira township, Audubon county, to Susan Connrardy, who was born on April 17, 1857, in Luxemburg, Germany, and who is the daughter of Nicholas and Susan (Noel) Connrardy. They came to the United States in January, 1858, after spending forty-four days on the voyage. They lived first at Dubuque, Iowa, but later moved to Cascade, where the mother died after about one year and one-half, leaving six children. The father kept the family together as best he could until 1869, when Mr. Baylor's wife came west to Audubon county with William Bintner, who had married her elder sister. One year later the father came to Audubon county and Mrs. Baylor then made her home with him until she was married.

Mr. and Mrs. Baylor have been the parents of fourteen children, twelve of whom are now living, six daughters and six sons; two sons are deceased. They are as follow: Ina B., born on May 22, 1875, who married Ed Guston and has six children, Marion, Andrew, Vivian, Nellie, George and Helen; Lottie A., November 6, 1877, who is the wife of Charles Parm and has six children, Nora, Elsie, John, Gretchen, Ina and Charles; Nellie Myrtle, November 1, 1878, who became the wife of Walter Schlotfeldt and has two children, Harold and Carl; Jennie May, July 13, 1880, who married Otis Boehme and has one son, Lowell; Anna E., January 6, 1882, who married Edward Wahlert; Edward E., December 4, 1883, who is unmarried and lives in Canada; John, September 14, 1885, and died on May 22, 1889; Clyde, born September 2, 1887, and died May 18, 1889, both he and his

brother dying during an epidemic of diphtheria; Bernie, November 20, 1889, who lives at home; Walter H., February 13, 1892, who married Clara Klemmish and lives in Canada; Charles R., April 20, 1894; Andrew J., March 3, 1896; Everett, January 4, 1898; and Gretchen C., August 5, 1900. The four latter children are still at home.

Mr. Baylor is prominent in the Masonic lodge of this state. He is a member of the Exira blue lodge; a Knight Templar at Audubon, and a member of the Shrine at Des Moines. He was formerly a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Exira, but this lodge finally lost its charter.

Andrew J. Baylor is engaged in general farming and stock raising. Aside from his two hundred and forty acres of land in Audubon county, he also owns a half section of land in Alberta, Canada, and a half section in Saskatchewan, Canada. He is one of the well-to-do farmers and citizens of this township and county and one who is widely known and highly respected. He is a leader in all civic and political affairs and, although he has not held office, his advice and counsel are freely and widely sought.

MARIUS KNUDSEN.

One of the best known and most enterprising of the younger farmers of Hamlin township, Audubon county, Iowa, is Marius Knudsen, now in the very prime of life and usefulness. His influence as an honorable upright citizen is very marked in the community where he lives, and his life has been very wholesome as an influence upon all with whom he has come into contact. His past successes give assurances of many things yet to come, and Mr. Knudsen is evidently destined to continue as a potent factor for substantial good for many years to come. He owns an excellent farm in Hamlin township, which he operates in a manner that stamps him as a man who is fully abreast of the times.

Marius Knudsen was born on January 15, 1875, in Fyn, Denmark. He is the son of Knudt W. and Elenore (Hart) Knudsen, who were also born in Fyn. The father was a merchant in the old country, but on coming to the United States in August, 1884, with his family, took up farming. They lived in Atlantic, Cass county, for about a month and then moved to Marne, where they lived for two months. In November, 1884, they moved to a farm four miles northwest of Exira, where the father purchased eighty

acres of land of a man by the name of Winchell. The land had a good house, barn and some fences and cost twenty-five dollars an acre. There was a great deal of sod and prairie land upon this farm to break and most of it was done with oxen, five yoke having been used with each plow. Oxen not only were better for this kind of work, but they were much cheaper than horses. At this time one could purchase an ox for about twenty-five or thirty dollars and horses cost a hundred and twenty-five to a hundred and seventy-five dollars each.

Knudt W. Knudsen lived upon this farm until 1891 when he retired and moved to Marne again, where he lived for a few years and then moved to Rohrbek, Iowa, where he lived until his death. He was the father of ten children, eight of whom lived to maturity, as follow: Albert C., Elizabeth Christensen, Rasmus, Abraham, Marius, Lena Jensen, Rikke Christensen and Bessie.

Marius Knudsen attended school until fourteen years of age, and then worked for his father for a year or so and after that commenced working out by the month, finally renting a farm for two years in Cass county, Iowa. In 1904 he purchased his present farm of a hundred and twenty acres in section 25 of Hamlin township. The farm was fairly well improved at that time, but Mr. Knudsen has added to it in the way of improvements. He had the first hydraulic ram installed in Audubon county. This device pumps the water for his stock and home.

On February 14, 1900, Mr. Knudsen was married to Mae Wolf, who was born on August 12, 1877, in Schleswig, Germany, and who is the daughter of Peter and Anna M. (Petersen) Wolf. They were also born in Schleswig when it was a part of Denmark. They were farmers and came to the United States in 1883, locating in Audubon county. When the Wolfs first came to Audubon county, there were but few school buildings and Mrs. Knudsen, their daughter, attended, as the rest of them did, at a subscription school which was held in a private home.

Mr. and Mrs. Marius Knudsen are the parents of seven children, all of whom are living. They are as follow: Marguerite, born on November 20, 1902; Alvin, May 13, 1904; Viola, April 29, 1906; Glenn, July 17, 1908; Ruby, July 23, 1909; Joy, January 10, 1911, and Robert, June 14, 1914.

Fraternally, Mr. Knudsen is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons. He is a Republican in politics and served as school director for seven years. During his entire life Mr. Knudsen has been especially interested in educational affairs. All the members of the family are identified with the Danish Lutheran church. Mr. Knudsen is a stockholder in the

Exira Creamery Company and also in the Audubon County Mutual Telephone Company. Marius Knudsen is a progressive, enterprising and well-known citizen of Audubon county, where he is held in universal esteem by all his neighbors.

HENRY W. TIBBEN.

Henry W. Tibben, who owns four hundred acres of excellent farming land in section 4, Audubon township, was one of the organizers of the Audubon Township Creamery Company, and has been a director of the company for many years.

Henry W. Tibben was born on March 10, 1863, in Rock Island, Illinois, and is the son of John W. and Katherine (Schwenneker) Tibben, natives of Friesland and Hanover, Germany, respectively. They came to the United States when young people, and were married in Rock Island, Illinois. The father, a farmer by occupation, came to Audubon county from Rock Island, Illinois, in 1881, and after purchasing three hundred and twenty acres of land in Audubon township, lived on his farm until his death. He and his wife, both of whom are now deceased, were the parents of seven children, six of whom are still living, as follow: Henry W., Amos F., Anna, deceased, John C., William, Mrs. Minnie Carson and Mrs. Emma Porter. All the children except Emma, who lives in eastern Iowa, live in Audubon county.

After living at home until his marriage, Mr. Tibben then rented land for five years, and eventually purchased a hundred and sixty acres of land in section 4, of Audubon township. He has added to this and now has a total of four hundred acres, all in Audubon township. It is an interesting fact that Mr. Tibben's hen-house was the original dwelling on the farm. He has made many improvements upon the land, and erected many substantial buildings, and he now has a well-improved and highly profitable farm.

On December 16, 1884, Henry W. Tibben was married in Audubon county to Mary Hocamp, who was born on October 25, 1866, in Hancock county, Illinois, and who is the daughter of William and Hannah (Elleman) Hocamp, natives of Prussia, who came to the United States when young people and who were married in Quincy, Illinois. Although William Hocamp had been a miner in his native land, he became a farmer after coming to the United States. Finally he moved to Audubon county in

1875, and after locating in Audubon township, purchased some land in this township. The mother died in the eighties, but the father is still living retired on his land.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Tibben have had eight children, as follow: Clara N., born on January 31, 1886, is a clerk in Petersen's store in Exira, where she has been employed for ten years; Nettie M., August 31, 1887, married Walter Meyers, and they live in Audubon township; Edward H., February 18, 1889, married Edna Luke, and they live in Audubon township; Ralph H., May 3, 1891; Ethel L., November 2, 1898; Helen H., November 17, 1899; Florence L., October 20, 1902, and Lowell W., September 16, 1904.

A Republican in politics, Mr. Tibben served as township trustee for a period of ten years, and also served on the school board for several terms. Mr. and Mrs. Tibben are members of St. John's Lutheran church; Mrs. Tibben's mother was one of the charter members of this church. The Tibben children, however, are members of the Audubon township Christian church.

A popular citizen of his community, Henry W. Tibben is a worthy descendant of the sturdy German parentage which established the family in America. Prudent in all the affairs of life, genial in manner, Mr. Tibben has the satisfaction of knowing that he has attained a worthy measure of success. He has always taken a commendable interest in public movements and his influence has been of potent power for good in Audubon township.

PETER F. PETERSON.

Peter F. Peterson, a retired farmer of Kimballton, Iowa, who started in life in a small way and who now owns considerable farm property in Audubon and Shelby counties, Iowa, was born on October 31, 1847, in Aro, Denmark, the son of Peter Ernest and Anna Peterson, both of whom were natives of Aro, Denmark, and where his father was a laborer. He and his wife, who were members of the Lutheran church, lived and died in their native land. They were the parents of seven children: Mary, Sasel, Metta, Andrea, Katrina, Carrie, deceased, and Peter F., the subject of this sketch.

Peter F. Peterson is the only member of his father's family who has ever come to America. After receiving a limited education in the schools of his native land when a lad, he first herded sheep and later engaged in farming, in order to make a living for himself. Coming to America in

1869 alone, he first located at Atlantic, Iowa, when there were only three houses in the place. He worked for the Rock Island railroad, where he remained for two years and then moved to Rock Springs, Wyoming, where he worked in the coal mines for two years. Subsequently, he worked in the Colorado silver mines and then at Salt Lake City for a short time. Afterwards he was engaged at Austin, Nevada, in the silver mines for two years and then returned to Audubon county, Iowa, and purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Sharon township, consisting of wild land, which had never been plowed. He later added eighty acres in Jackson township, Shelby county, and from time to time has made many improvements upon these properties.

On November 18, 1875, Mr. Peterson was married to Annie Anderson, a native of Jylland, Denmark, and the daughter of Anders Sorensen and Annie Davisen, who were both natives of Denmark and who, after coming to America, were early settlers in Story county, Iowa, where he farmed until his death. His wife, who is seventy-nine years old, is still living.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter F. Peterson have eight children: Mary, who married James Rosenbeck, of Columbia, North Dakota, and has four children, William, Lena, Franklin and Francis; Jens F., who lives on the old home place, married Christina Rasch and has two children, Annie and Idna; Carrie, who married Martin Fredericksen, a real estate and insurance dealer of Kimballton, Iowa, and has four children, William, Annie, Edward and Elmer; Martha, who became the wife of Charles Wright, of Greenfield, Iowa, and has three children, Nellie, Annie and Minerva; Ernest, of Sharon township, who married Christina Jorgensen and has two children, Rosa and Roy; Hans, a farmer, who is single; Andrace and Anna. During his life as an active farmer, Mr. Peterson was engaged in farming and stock raising.

The Peterson family are all members of the Danish Lutheran church. A Republican in politics, Mr. Peterson has held several minor offices, and for many years served as a school director. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson are very popular people; they have a comfortable home in Kimballton, Iowa, where they have lived retired for several years. In addition to all of Mr. Peterson's other property, he has small tracts of land scattered in different parts of Audubon county. Starting in life as he did with no financial aid and no hope of assistance, it must be admitted that Peter F. Peterson has made a splendid success of the opportunities which have come in his way. He is a man who richly deserves the comforts which he is able to enjoy during his declining years; comforts which arise from the competence which he himself has gained.

HERMAN D REIMERS.

Herman D. Reimers, a native of Rock Island county, Illinois, born on January 1, 1877, who owns eighty acres of land in Audubon township, may rightly be said to own one of the best-improved farms in all Audubon county. Mr. Reimers' farm is thoroughly fenced with hog-tight woven wire fence and, altogether, there has been placed on the farm more than eight hundred rods of this fence.

A man who has made a remarkable success of farming, Herman D. Reimers is a son of Claus and Maggie (Dutlef) Reimers, both natives of Holstein, Germany, who came to the United States in 1871 and who, after landing at New York city, came direct to Rock Island county, Illinois, where they lived until 1882. At this time they came to Audubon county, Iowa, where they lived until 1895, when the father gave each of his sons eighty acres of land and removed to Adair, Iowa, where he now lives. His wife, the mother of Herman D. Reimers, died in November, 1913. There were five boys in the Reimers family who lived to maturity and three daughters died in childhood. The sons are, August, of Audubon township; John, of Moline, Illinois; William, of Sedgwick county, Kansas; Amos, of Adair county, and Herman D., the subject of this sketch.

After having lived at home with his parents until they left the farm, Herman D. Reimers began working out and, after a few years, was married and settled on the farm which his father gave him. It was partially improved, having a good house and a few other small buildings. In 1914 he built a large barn, forty-eight by thirty-two by twenty feet, and aside from these dimensions, the farm has a large basement, and is one of the best in Audubon township. It was built at a cost of about twelve hundred dollars.

On January 23, 1900, Mr. Reimers was married to Kate Wahe, who was born on August 25, 1882, in Rock Island county, Illinois, and is the daughter of John and Marguerite (Meeder) Wahe, also natives of Holstein, Germany, the former of whom came to the United States in 1873, eight months before the remainder of the family. The father came first in order to earn money to pay the passages of his wife and one child, one other child having died a few days before sailing time. After landing in New York city, they came direct to Rock Island county, Illinois, where they lived until about 1887, when they moved to Adams county, Nebraska. After living here for about seven years, they came to Audubon county and located near Exira, where they lived for five years; subsequently, they moved to Adair county.

Mr. and Mrs. Reimers are the parents of three children: Laura, born February 5, 1902; Lillian, August 25, 1905, and Elmer, July 14, 1911.

Although Mr. Reimers is a Republican nominally, he is a Socialist in principle, and leans very strongly toward the socialization of all industries. He is one of the best informed men of Audubon township, especially in matters of politics. The Reimers family are members of St. John's Lutheran church.

Herman D. Reimers has proved a valuable citizen in the community where he lives. He is endowed with a natural capacity for leadership and is a man whose counsel and advice are sought freely on many questions. Naturally, he is a man of upright and honorable character.

T. C. KESTER.

T. C. Kester, who owns a fertile and highly productive farm of three hundred and sixty acres in Cameron township, Audubon county, Iowa, was born on September 8, 1856, in the state of Pennsylvania. Mr. Kester is the son of Hiram and Mary Kester, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. He was a farmer and farmed in that state all of his life. Both Hiram Kester and his wife died in 1862, after rearing a family of four children, two of whom are now living: William and T. C.

T. C. Kester received all of his education in the state of Pennsylvania and after leaving school, attended the Orangeville Academy for some time. He then taught school for one term in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, and after finishing his term of school, he came to Audubon county in 1883 and located in section 19 of Cameron township, where he purchased eighty acres of land at twenty-six dollars an acre. Mr. Kester improved the place and farmed there for seventeen years. He then purchased two hundred acres in section 22 where he is now living. In 1910 he bought an additional one hundred and sixty acres in section 27, where his son, Harry, now lives. He has not only acquired three hundred and sixty acres of land but upon this property, he has invested eight thousand dollars in various kinds of improvements. He raises one hundred acres of corn which yields an average of fifty bushels to the acre, and the balance in small grain and grass. He also raises horses, cattle and hogs.

On January 4, 1883, T. C. Kester was married to Susanna Heacock, the daughter of Jesse and Lydia Heacock. The marriage took place during

the same year in which Mr. Kester moved from Pennsylvania to Audubon county. Mr. and Mrs. Kester are the parents of nine children: Bruce, Lulu, Harry, Raymond, Alice, Walter, Frank, Pearl and Mildred. Lulu married John Lacy and they have three children, Harold, Floyd and Dorothy. Harry married Sena Hansen and they have three children, Cameron, Aaron and Charles. The remainder of Mr. and Mrs. Kester's family are single.

The Kesters have been prominent in the United Brethren church of Cameron township. Mr. Kester is a trustee in the church and was formerly not only superintendent of the Sunday school, but treasurer of the congregation. In politics, he is a Republican and has served as school director.

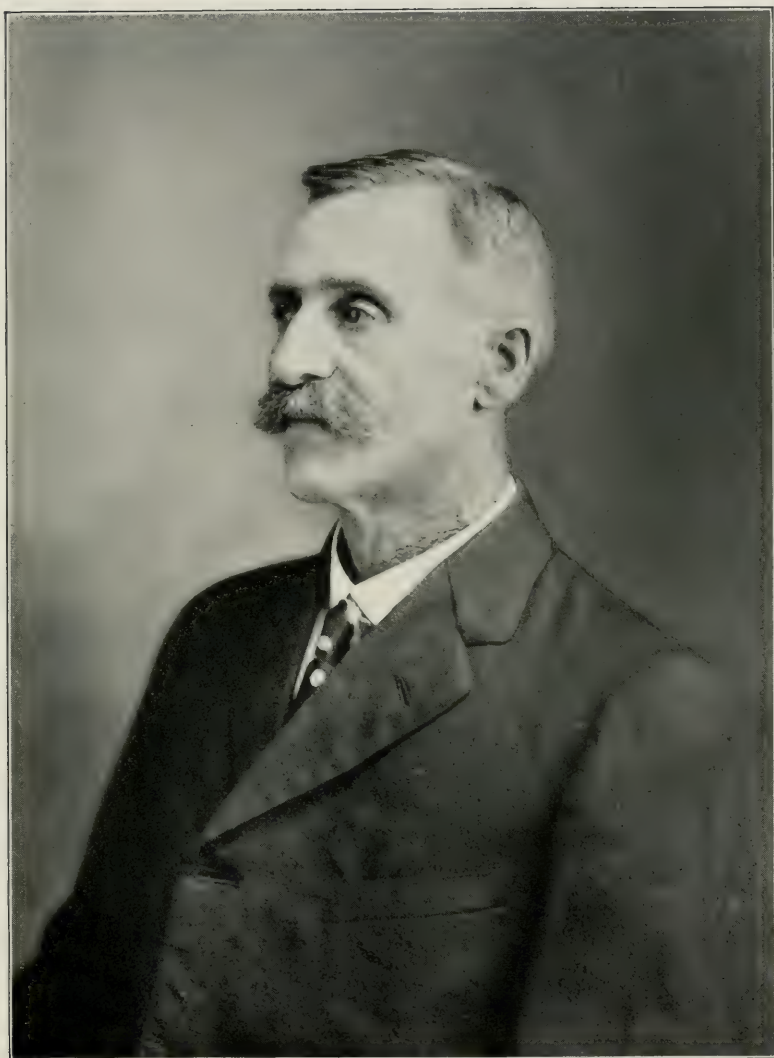
T. C. Kester is regarded in Cameron township by his neighbors as an intelligent and well-informed farmer and citizen. One of the oldest residents of this township, he has gained many warm friends and is well known throughout Audubon county as one of its leading and enterprising citizens. T. C. Kester is a worthy citizen of Cameron township and one who enjoys the confidence of all the people of his neighborhood.

FRANK R. McLAUGHLIN.

Frank R. McLaughlin, one of the leading citizens of Lincoln township, Audubon county, Iowa, who owns a highly productive farm of two hundred and forty acres in this township, was born on August 27, 1853, in Newark, Ohio, the son of Charles and Rachel (Covall) McLaughlin, both of whom were natives of Ohio.

After receiving an elementary education in his native state, Charles McLaughlin took up farming on a farm of one hundred and thirty acres in Licking county, Ohio. Here he farmed until 1861, when he removed to Illinois, where he farmed and teamed for more than twenty-five years. He then came to Audubon county, and made his home with his son, Frank R., living with him until his death, October 11, 1903. Mrs. Rachel (Covall) McLaughlin died on March 11, 1874. They had eight children, four of whom are now living. Frank R., however, is the only one living in the state of Iowa.

Frank R. McLaughlin received his education in Illinois, and after finishing his education, he worked out as a farm hand for several years, and then purchased a team and rented a farm in Illinois for six years. In 1885



FRANK R. McLAUGHLIN

Mr. McLaughlin came to Audubon county, and located on the farm where he is now living. After renting it for five years he purchased the place, and during the time he has owned it has invested more than six thousand dollars in various kinds of improvements. Mr. McLaughlin is an extensive farmer, and feeds more than two hundred head of hogs every year, as well as two carloads of cattle.

On March 19, 1885, Frank R. McLaughlin was married to Cora Evans, who was born on October 21, 1862, a daughter of Oliver and Luta (Goodrich) Evans. To this happy union eight children have been born, as follows: Maude, deceased; Charles, of Manning, Iowa, auctioneer and real estate dealer; Ray, Mae, Glenn, Gladys, Hazen and Grace. Glenn married Elizabeth Schrumm, and they have one child, Imogene. The remainder of the children are unmarried and live at home with their parents. Mrs. McLaughlin died on June 27, 1911. She was a member of the United Brethren church.

Mr. McLaughlin is a steward in the United Brethren church, and also a trustee. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and a noble grand in that lodge, at Gray, having been through the chairs three different times. He has been a member of Utopia Lodge, No. 161, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, since 1887. He was formerly township trustee of Lincoln township for ten years, and also served for a time as school director. Mr. McLaughlin considers himself a progressive Republican, although he is somewhat independent in his voting.

Frank R. McLaughlin is not only a skillful, enterprising and highly successful farmer, but he is also a man who takes a worthy interest in public questions and praiseworthy public movements. He is well informed and keeps abreast with all modern political and civic currents and movements. Mr. McLaughlin is popular in the community where he lives.

WILLIAM C. TIBBEN.

A native of Rock Island county, Illinois, an enterprising farmer of Audubon township, where he owns an excellent farm of two hundred acres, William C. Tibben was born on October 27, 1873, and is a son of John and Catherine (Schwenneker) Tibben, who were natives of Friesland, and Holstein, Germany, respectively.

Mr. Tibben's parents came to the United States when young people

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and were married in Rock Island county, Illinois, where they lived until 1881, at which time they came to Audubon county, and they made this county their home until their death. They were the parents of seven children, Henry, Amos, Anna, John, William C., Mrs. Minnie Carson, and Mrs. Emma Porter.

William C. Tibben attended school until about fifteen years of age in Audubon township, during which time he lived at home with his parents, assisting with the farm work until his marriage, at which time he rented a farm for five years. Subsequently, he purchased two hundred acres of land where he now lives, but at that time it was poorly improved, and the house, which was a small building, fourteen by twenty-four feet, had only two rooms; the barn, however, was a fairly good building. Mr. Tibben has since erected a large, eight-room house, equipped with gas lights, furnace, hot and cold water and other conveniences which make it entirely and thoroughly modern. At the time this house was erected in 1902, it was by far the best house in the community. In 1909 Mr. Tibben built a large barn and a corn crib with a capacity of five thousand bushels of ear corn and shelled grain. He has also erected a substantial machine shed, in which he keeps his stock of modern machinery with which his farm is well equipped.

In December, 1894, Mr. Tibben was married in Audubon county to Catherine Bireline, who was born on March 21, 1874, in Johnson county, Iowa, the daughter of Fred and Julia (Michels) Bireline, natives of Germany, who came to the United States before their marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Tibben are the parents of six children: Clarence, born on September 27, 1895; Charles, October 2, 1897; Walter, March 21, 1902; Arthur, November 10, 1906; Harry, August 4, 1909; Johnnie, June 23, 1913. All of these children are living at home with their parents.

A Republican in politics, William C. Tibben has served as township trustee of Audubon township for two years, and is the present secretary of the local school board. The Tibben family are members of St. John's Lutheran church.

A general farmer and stock raiser who feeds several hundred head of hogs and from one to two carloads of cattle each year for the markets, William Tibben is well known in Audubon township, where he has been successful in a large measure in his chosen vocation. Mr. Tibben is still a comparatively young man, but so diligently and wisely has he applied himself to the business of farming that he has already accumulated a substantial competence, and at the same time he has not neglected his larger duties, and is today recognized as one of the foremost citizens of the community in which he lives.

MATURON D. THOMAS.

Maturon D. Thomas is a well-known farmer of Exira township, who owns a farm of two hundred and thirty-nine acres and who enjoys the distinction of having been born on the same place where he now lives. Mr. Thomas is well known, especially for the reason that he was a thresherman for approximately twenty years in this community. For several years he was also the street commissioner and marshal of Exira and was well known in connection with these two offices.

Maturon D. Thomas was born on April 26, 1863. He is the son of Isaac and Mary (Hamlin) Thomas. Isaac Thomas was a native of Ohio and his wife a native of Mahaska county. Isaac Thomas grew to manhood and during the early part of his life worked on a farm. In 1860 he came to Audubon county and began working for Nathaniel Hamlin as a farm hand. He worked in this capacity for about ten years and then purchased a farm and began farming for himself. He owned at one time three hundred and eighty acres in Audubon county. Later, however, he moved to Colorado and lived there until his death in 1907. He was married on March 24, 1861. His wife died in October, 1910. They had eleven children: Lou Ann, deceased; Belle, who married Samuel Bloom; Jacob, who lives in Montana; Nathaniel, who lives in Colorado; Nannie, deceased; Rose, who is the wife of Harvey Huff; Bessie, who married Clarence Greenfield; Isaac, deceased; Orel, deceased; John, deceased, and Maturon, the subject of this sketch.

Maturon D. Thomas received his education in the public schools of the township and after leaving school, he farmed with his father until he was about twenty-three years old. At this time he was married and began farming for himself by renting land for a short time. After this he purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres and was engaged in general farming until about 1895, when he moved to Exira and there served as street commissioner and marshal for some time. In the meantime, however, he operated a threshing machine for nine years. After serving for some time as street commissioner and marshal of Exira, he returned to the farm and has been living on the farm since that time. Altogether he threshed grain for twenty years. He raises about eighty acres of corn and sixty acres of small grain. Mr. Thomas feeds about one hundred head of hogs each year and has been very successful with mixed farming and stock raising.

Maturon D. Thomas was married on February 25, 1886, to Lucy Davis, the daughter of W. E. Davis. Two children were born to this marriage,

Guy and Florence. Guy married Lottie Florence Hinchman and has one daughter, Violet. Florence married George Schlater and has one child. Mrs. Thomas died on April 25, 1893, and after her death, Mr. Thomas was married on June 24, 1912, to Lavina Tyler, the daughter of O. P. Tyler. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas are members of the Christian church in which Mr. Thomas formerly served as a deacon. He is now a trustee of this church. Mr. Thomas is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He is also a member of the American Modern Reserve. He is a Republican.

ROBERT F. AIKMAN.

To the honest, hard-working, law-abiding citizen, there is bound to come the inevitable success which goes hand in hand with such a character, and no man has been more plentifully provided with these qualities than Robert F. Aikman, an outline of whose history is here briefly given. Being especially interested in agriculture and all that pertains to it, the task, if it might be called such, of writing a biographical sketch of a man who has been wise enough to live so near to nature, gives an unusual amount of pleasure, especially in view of the fact that the desired results are not accomplished without a full share of discouraging obstacles.

Robert F. Aikman, general farmer and stock raiser, of Lincoln township, was born in Clinton county, Iowa, March 29, 1866, the son of R. D. and Sarah Aikman. He attended the public schools in the county, quitting school at the age of eighteen years, to go to work for his father on the farm, and remained with him until he was twenty-one years old. He then rented a farm of eighty acres from his father for three or four years, when he gave this up and moved to Audubon county. When he was twenty-one years of age, his father gave him a farm of eighty acres, and Mr. Aikman has invested about five thousand dollars in improvements on his farm. His principal crop is grain, all of which he feeds to the stock on his place. He devotes his attention principally to thoroughbred Duroc hogs, of which he sells about two carloads annually, netting him about one thousand five hundred dollars. In 1914, he built a fine barn thirty-four by forty-six, which holds sixty tons of hay.

R. D. Aikman, father of our subject, was born in Pennsylvania, and his wife is a native of Canada. They were united in marriage in Clinton county, Iowa, where he owned and cultivated a farm of one hundred and

sixty acres. After a time, he moved from this place to Illinois, about the year 1866, remaining there some twenty or twenty-one years. He bought four hundred and twenty acres in Whiteside county, Illinois, which he later sold and moved back to Iowa, where he bought two hundred acres in Audubon, where he spent the remainder of his life. They were the parents of seven children, as follow: James, Almeda, A. F., Nettie, Josephine, Irena, and Robert F.

Robert F. Aikman was married in 1897 to Jennie Andre, daughter of Harvey and Mary E. Andre, of Crawford county. They are the parents of the following children: Vera, Floyd, Olive, Donald and Myron, all of whom are still at home.

In religion, Mr. Aikman's views are of the Methodist belief, and he is a regular attendant of that church at Gray. Politically, he votes the Republican ticket.

WORTH J. HARTZELL.

An example of industry and perseverance in the face of apparently adverse circumstances and of the ability to rise superior to whatever adversity may lie in wait, the following interesting biography of one of the leading farmers of Greeley township, this county, will prove of value to the thoughtful reader.

Worth J. Hartzell was born in Hermitage, Missouri, July 23, 1871, the son of Seth and Julia (Blair) Hartzell, both of whom were natives of Missouri. The Blairs were ardent adherents of the Union cause during the Civil War, their course being so obnoxious to their neighbors, the greater part of whom espoused the cause of the Confederacy, that they found it necessary to leave their home in Missouri and come north. Seth Hartzell and his wife came to Audubon county in the year 1876 and remained here one year, at the end of which they went back to Atlantic, in Cass county, Iowa, where they had settled after their flight from the south, but a year later returned to Audubon county, remaining here until about 1912, when they went to California, where they now are living. They were the parents of nine children, seven of whom are now living, Worth J. being the eldest.

Worth J. Hartzell remained on the paternal farm until his marriage at the age of twenty-four. Though he started with nothing but a stout heart and a team of oxen when he came to Audubon county, Mr. Hartzell's father had acquired about two hundred acres of land in Greeley township by the

time his eldest son was married and Worth J. began by renting from his father a portion of this farm. Apparent "bad luck" followed his tenant-farming venture, however, and after the first year Worth J. found it necessary to give up farming for the time. He built a small house on a wagon and for a year he and his wife lived in this movable home, going from place to place as opportunity seemed most propitious. He finally felt himself financially able to take up farming again and once more entered upon the business of tenant farming, during this time making several moves, a part of the time being spent in South Dakota. In 1900 Mr. Hartzell returned to his father's home and lived there, assisting in the work of the farm until 1908, in which year he bought one hundred and twenty acres of land in sections 15 and 22 of Greeley township. In 1909 he added to this farm another forty in section 15 and in 1911 bought an additional tract of eighty acres in the same section, this giving him a farm of two hundred and forty acres, one of the most thoroughly-equipped places in the township. When Mr. Hartzell bought his farm there were some improvements on the same in the way of buildings, but these he has completely supplanted by new and modern buildings, his house being one of the most complete and modern in that part of the county, being equipped with gas lights, furnace, bath, water-works and all the conveniences that are required to add to the comfort of a modern home. His farm buildings are constructed on a similar scale, being designed for the utmost convenience and efficiency, his stock barns and pens being unusually complete. He annually feeds about one hundred head of cattle and two hundred head of hogs and has found this a very profitable phase of farming. He has about five miles of hog-tight fence on his place.

On March 10, 1895, Worth J. Hartzell was united in marriage to Mary E. Jaynes, of this county, who was born on April 29, 1877, the daughter of Edward P. and Veluma (Patterson) Jaynes, natives, respectively, of Pennsylvania and Iowa. Edward Jaynes came to Iowa when a boy of sixteen and at nineteen years of age enlisted in a company of infantry which was being recruited in Washington county for service in the Union's cause during the Civil War. He was wounded in service and was discharged and sent home, but immediately following his recovery enlisted again and was in the service until the close of the war, a period of three years of active service in all.

To Worth J. and Mary E. (Jaynes) Hartzell five children have been born, Wayne V., Wylie W., Donald J., Charles L. and Clarice E. Mrs. Hartzell is an earnest member of the Greeley Center Methodist church and

is rearing her children to the faith of that church. Mr. Hartzell's parents were among the founders of this church. Mr. Hartzell is an ardent Republican, as was his father, and is keenly interested in local political affairs. He served his township as justice of the peace for a term of two years and is now the treasurer of the school board. He is public spirited and enterprising and is a strong force for good in his community, where he and his wife are held in the highest regard, being looked upon as among the leaders in all good works thereabout.

N. P. CLEMSEN.

An industrious and enterprising farmer of Oakfield township, Audubon county, Iowa, who has made commendable progress as a farmer since coming to America at the age of eighteen, is N. P. Clemesen, who was born on July 28, 1871, in Jylland, Denmark, and who is a son of Nels A. and Anna C. Clemesen. His parents were farmers in their native land, although the father was a sailor for several years, and also served as a soldier in the Danish-Prussian War of 1864. The only members of the Clemesen family who have ever come to America, are N. P. and Andrew, of Sharon township in this county.

N. P. Clemesen, after having received a fair education in his native land, worked at farm work after leaving school until he reached the age of eighteen years, when he came to the United States, and, after landing at New York city, came on directly to Audubon county, Iowa. Here he obtained employment on farms, and after continuing in this line for four years, rented land in Sharon township for two years. After his marriage Mr. Clemesen removed to Texas, where his father-in-law had given him a tract of land. After living four years in Texas, he returned to Audubon county and purchased eighty acres of land in section 17, Hamlin township, but he owned this farm only one year, when he traded it off and acquired eighty acres, where he now lives in section 10, of Oakfield township. Mr. Clemesen has built a house, barn and other outbuildings since he acquired this farm, and has planted many trees. Most of his fences are made of woven wire, and altogether his farm has been improved and developed, until it is one of the best in the township. In the meantime, he has purchased eighty acres more land and rents forty acres in addition to that which he owns, farming in all two hundred acres.

On October 3, 1893, Mr. Clemesen was married in Audubon county to

Nena Esbeck, who was born on January 29, 1874, in Guthrie county, Iowa, and who is a daughter of Andrew and Christina (Christensen) Esbeck, natives of Jylland, Denmark, who came to the United States soon after their marriage and who were among the very early settlers of Oakfield township. Their farm which was about seven miles west of Exira, was a lonely spot on the prairie at the time they moved there, as there were no other houses between their farm and Exira. Mr. Esbeck paid five dollars an acre for his first land. He was one of the charter members of the Elkhorn Danish Lutheran church, and Mrs. Clemesen attended school in one of the private homes of the neighborhood for a year or two before a school house was built near her home.

Mr. and Mrs. N. P. Clemesen are the parents of seven children: Arthur H., born on June 15, 1895; Mabel A., March 20, 1898; Anna C., May 2, 1900; Henry, December 1, 1902; Bula A., August 30, 1906; Ethel M., September 13, 1909; Christena C., November 8, 1912. All of these children are unmarried and are living at home with their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Clemesen and family are all faithful and earnest members of the Danish Lutheran church at Elkhorn. A Republican in politics, Mr. Clemesen has held only minor offices in Oakfield township. Having combined general farming and stock raising and by the profits from the dairy products of from six to fifteen cows annually, Mr. Clemesen has been enabled to realize most satisfactory results from his farm. He is progressive, broad-minded and industrious; a man who is well known in this community, and who has a host of friends in the township. The sterling reputation which he enjoys in Oakfield township is not a matter of accident, but is founded upon very proper relations with his neighbors and fellow citizens.

JOHN J. QUINBY.

The kindly nature and affable manner of John J. Quinby have endeared him to a large circle of friends in Clinton county; and he is especially well known and esteemed in the vicinity of Ross, where he was postmaster for fourteen years.

John J. Quinby was born on February 10, 1849, in Chappaqua, Westchester county, New York. His quiet habits may be traced to his ancestry, for on both sides of the family his parents came from Quaker stock. He was the son of Underhill and Ann Loretta (Van Vorin) Quinby, both of

New York state, where they grew up and married. When John was a baby of eight days, his mother passed away, and in 1860, when the boy had reached the age of ten, his father too was taken, and he went to the home of a widow, a Mrs. Sorrels. The father, who had been a farmer, was married three times, his second wife was Sarah Barmor, also of New York state. By the first marriage, there were four children: Etta, who afterwards became Mrs. Abram Buddell, of New York; Jennie Adams, also of New York state; John J., the subject of this sketch; and another child, the eldest, who died while young.

Early left an orphan, whatever of achievement and success has come to Mr. Quinby, came largely through his own efforts. Limited in his opportunities to obtain an education, he nevertheless made use of the material he had, and developed a character which has made him the respected citizen of a large community.

John J. Quinby obtained what education he could in the local country schools, meantime working on a farm. When he was eighteen years old he went to Illinois, where he engaged in farming for the next two years. Returning to his native state he became a brakeman on the New York & Harlem railroad, a position he held for two and one-half years. Later, going to New York City, he drove a milk wagon for the same period of time. Becoming tired of the city, his fondness for the country returned, and for the next five years, he worked on a farm in Putnam county, Illinois, and later at Stuart, Iowa.

John J. Quinby was united in marriage to Etta Smith, of Illinois. After their marriage they returned to Mr. Quinby's home in New York state, where they lived for a year and one-half. Returning to Stewart, Iowa, he again engaged in farm work, remaining there for two and one-half years. Later Mr. and Mrs. Quinby removed to Audubon county, Iowa, first locating on Gray's ranch, and later one mile west of Ross, where they resided for four years. For over twenty years, Mr. Quinby was a grain dealer, and for ten years was proprietor and manager of a store, and for fourteen years he was postmaster of Ross.

Mr. Quinby has always been a staunch Republican. For the past twenty-two years he has been a Mason, and is now a member of the blue lodge at Audubon. He is a prominent member of the Methodist church.

Mr. and Mrs. Quinby are the parents of three children, Nellie, Albert and Jeston J. Nellie, born on September 16, 1874, married John Rutherford of Dolliver, Iowa, and to them were born six children: Merrill, born in 1898; Edna, 1900; Luvile, 1901; Mary, 1902; Jack, 1908, and Emmett,

1909. Albert, born on September 16, 1876, married Laura Larsen, and their home is seven miles east of Audubon. They also have six children: Mildred, born in 1902; Edith, 1905; Irene, 1907; Doratha, 1909; John, 1907; and George, 1911. Jeston J. married Gusta Claghby and lives in Des Moines, Iowa.

A man who can hold public office for fourteen years must obviously be a man worthy of a public trust, and of the confidence of the people. This may truthfully be said of John Quinby. Mr. Quinby had much to do with building up the commercial interests of the town in which he lived, and his genial nature and fondness for people has, with the co-operation of his wife, made their home a pleasant part of the social life of their home town. In April, 1915, Mr. Quinby moved to Audubon, where he is now living retired.

OSCAR MILLER.

Among the enterprising farmers and stock raisers of Greeley township, this county, few are better known than the gentleman whose name the reader notes above, and a brief biography covering the salient points in his life will be interesting to his many friends in this county.

Oscar Miller was born in Johnson county, Iowa, March 2, 1874, the son of John and Susan (Lippy) Miller, both natives of York county, Pennsylvania, of German descent, who came to Iowa after their marriage in the east and settled in Johnson county, where they lived until 1882, in which year they moved to Audubon county, living here for some years, at the end of which time they moved to Adair county, where they died some years later. They were the parents of nine children, five sons and four daughters: Calvin, who lives at Friend, Nebraska; Oliver, who lives in Adair county, Iowa; Emory, who lives in Roger Mills county, Oklahoma; Lloyd, who lives at Lane, South Dakota; Oscar, the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Mary Coglin, of Exira; Mrs. Anna Picking, of Hamlin; Mrs. Elizabeth Purdy, who died in Adair county; and Estella, who also died in Adair county.

Oscar Miller received but a limited education in his youth and remained at home until his marriage in 1899, in which year he bought his present farm in Greeley township, this county, where he since has made his home. This farm consists of one hundred and twenty acres and on this Mr. Miller carries on a general system of farming and engages quite profitably in stock

raising. He has brought his farm to an excellent state of cultivation and is regarded as being quite well circumstanced.

On February 15, 1899, in Greeley township, Oscar Miller was united in marriage with Low M. Hays, who was born in Rock Island county, Illinois, December 30, 1876, the daughter of Frew and Louisa M. (Reed) Hays. A genealogy of the Hays family is presented in the biographical sketch of Frew Hays, of this county, elsewhere in this volume.

To Oscar and Low M. (Hays) Miller have been born three children, all daughters: Olive, born on March 4, 1901; Winnie, June 21, 1902; and Iva, April 4, 1906, charming little girls, a continual source of sunshine in the happy home of their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller are supporters of the Baptist church, of which Mrs. Miller is a member, and they are actively interested in all the good works of their community. Mr. Miller is a Democrat and though taking an active interest in local political affairs never has sought office, being content to give the best of his time and his energies to his home and his farm. He and Mrs. Miller are popular in the social circle in which they move and have the confidence and esteem of their neighbors.

EDWARD FRICK.

While success cannot be achieved without unflagging industry, the futility of effort is often noticeable in the business world and results from the fact that it is not combined with sound judgment. Many a man who gives his entire life to toil, earnest and unremitting, never acquires a competence, but when his labor is well directed, prosperity usually follows. Edward Frick is one whose work has been supplemented by careful management and today he is numbered among the successful business men of Audubon county.

Edward Frick was born on August 15, 1852, at Freeport, Illinois, the son of Louis and Eliza (Duensing) Frick. Louis Frick was a native of Germany, and his wife was also a native of the Fatherland. They were married in Germany and came to America from their native land, subsequently settling in Illinois. Louis Frick was killed in an accident with a team of horses when his son, Edward, was only seven years of age. Mr. Frick was with his father at the time of the accident, but escaped unharmed. Louis Frick and wife were the parents of five children, Caroline, Edward, Mary, Josephine and Henry, the last two named being now deceased.

Edward Frick was educated in the common schools of Illinois. For a time he worked in a molasses factory for twenty-five cents a day, and was compelled to take his pay in molasses. At this time he was about eight or nine years of age. Subsequently he began work on the Rock Island railroad at the age of eighteen years, first as a brakeman, being afterwards promoted to the position of freight conductor before he was nineteen years old, then later advanced to passenger conductor, and was engaged in this work continuously for thirty years. In the meantime, during 1879, he purchased land in Audubon county, Iowa, at five and six dollars an acre. At one time he owned four hundred and eighty-seven acres of land, all of which was situated in Audubon county. At the time of his first dealings in land he had only about thirty dollars cash to pay down on the property. As a passenger conductor he ran out of Chicago to West Liberty, Iowa, for a number of years. Mr. Frick was requested to go West by the railroad officials, and ran a passenger train out of Denver, Colorado. He spent the last fifteen years of his railroading life traveling out of Denver and Colorado Springs.

Edward Frick was married on July 30, 1876, to Henrietta Marquardt, who was born on October 13, 1854, in Michigan City, Indiana, and who was a daughter of Julius and Ernestine Carolina (Wiese) Marquardt, both of whom were natives of Germany. Julius Marquardt was a baker in his native land, and after coming to America he and his family located in Indiana. Mrs. Frick's father died when she was only two years old, and her mother died when she was nine years old. They were members of the German Lutheran church.

Edward Frick and wife are the parents of four children, Edward Louis, Daisy Adelaide, Branch Railey and Myrtle Marquardt. Edward is located in Honolulu, where he operates a "kodograph" shop, and sells curios gathered from the islands. He also carries a line of kodaks. Branch Railey is a druggist at Vale, Oregon. Myrtle is the wife of Dr. R. F. Childs, of Audubon. Daisy A. Frick was educated in the Minnesota Institute of Pharmacy, at Minneapolis, and also graduated from the East Denver high school. She is the proprietor and manager of the Frick Drug Company, of Audubon, Iowa, operating the "Rexall" store, which is the leading drug store in the city of Audubon. Miss Frick is well qualified as a business woman, and in her capacity as manager of this store has built up a large and lucrative business. She is also the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land in Dickinson county, Iowa, and has a handsome cottage at Des Moines Beach, Lake Okoboji, Iowa.

Edward Frick is a Republican, but although keenly interested in poli-

tics and all public measures he has never been a candidate for public office and has never held office. He is a man who is well known in this section of Audubon county, and is now making his home in Audubon. Although his land interests, four hundred and seventy-one acres, are in Dickinson county, Iowa. He is a man of sterling integrity, of upright moral principles, and worthy the confidence and respect of his fellow men.

ANDREW F. ANDERSON.

There are individuals in nearly every community, who, by reason of pronounced ability and force of character, rise above the heads of the masses and command the esteem of their fellow citizens. Characterized by perseverance and a directing spirit to virtues that never fail, such men always make their presence felt and the vigor of their strong personalities serves as an incentive to the young and rising generation. To this energetic and enterprising class, Andrew F. Anderson, a well-known farmer of Exira township, very properly belongs. Mr. Anderson has devoted his life to the industries at home and has succeeded remarkably well.

Andrew F. Anderson, the proprietor of eight hundred and forty acres in Exira township, Audubon county, Iowa, and in Benton township, Cass county, was born in October 11, 1859, in Denmark. He is the son of Anders G. and Mary (Storenson) Anderson, both natives of Denmark. The former was a farmer and farmed there until he came to America in 1868 and located in Shelby county, Iowa, north of Walnut. Here he bought forty acres of land and farmed in that county all of his life. He did general farming and before his death had increased his holdings to one hundred and twenty acres. He was born in 1834, and died in 1912. He served in the Danish-Prussian War of 1864.

Anders G. and Mary Anderson were the parents of fourteen children, nine of whom are now living, Andrew, the subject of this sketch, Anna, Nels, Marten, Peter, Mary, John, Ida and Henry.

Andrew F. Anderson received his education in the schools of Shelby county, Iowa, and after leaving school, took up farming and worked as a farm hand until he was twenty-two years of age. He then located at Atlantic, Iowa, where he worked as a drayman. He was also engaged in the oil business until 1900, when he moved to the place upon which he is now living.

When Mr. Anderson was twenty years old, he purchased eighty acres

of land in Shelby county and increased his holdings to eight hundred and forty acres. Upon this farm he put five thousand dollars worth of improvements. He raises a great many hogs and cattle but rents out most of his land.

Andrew F. Anderson was married on March 27, 1883, to Osilla Kringel, the daughter of Soren and Mary Ann Kringel. Five children have been born to this union, Arthur, Vera, Edith, Max and Raymond. Arthur married Mildred Bartlett and has three children, Isetta, Donald and Ronald. Vera married A. G. Colbin and has one daughter, Vera Aileen. Edith, Max and Raymond are at home. Mrs. Anderson was born in Denmark and her parents were also natives of that country. Her father was a farmer in Denmark and farmed there until he came to this country. They located in Shelby county, Iowa, where her father bought a farm and farmed until 1892, when he moved to Atlantic, Iowa. He lived there until his death, February 1, 1909. He was born on May 19, 1820, and his wife was born in 1828. They had ten children, eight of whom are living, Lars, Charles, Andrew, Osilla, Mary, Christian, Fred and Marten.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson and family are members of the Baptist church. Mr. Anderson is a trustee of this church and has been for many years. During his residence in Atlantic, he served as councilman of that city. Mr. Anderson is what might be called a Republican with prohibition views. He is a decided temperance man and uses his influence and his vote to fight the liquor traffic wherever he can. He deserves to rank as a representative citizen of Audubon county. Andrew F. Anderson possesses the entire confidence of the people with whom he has come into contact.

WILLIAM SHERMAN ROBERTS.

It is interesting to note from the beginning the growth and development of a community, to note the lines along which progress has been made and to take cognizance of those whose industry and leadership in the work of advancement have rendered possible the prosperity of the locality under consideration. William Sherman Roberts is one of the sturdy individuals who has contributed to the material welfare of Audubon, where he resides. He is an up-to-date business man, public spirited as a citizen and progressive in all that the term implies.

William Sherman Roberts, the operator of a popular dray line in Audu-

bon, and a city councilman of Audubon, was born on September 19, 1865, on a farm in Illinois. He is the son of Oliver Hazard Perry Roberts, who was born in 1829, and who died in August, 1904. Oliver Hazard Perry Roberts married Martha Woodburn Miller, who was born in 1838, and who is a native of Pennsylvania. She is now living in Los Angeles, California. Her husband, Oliver Hazard Perry Roberts, was a native of Indiana.

In 1866 Oliver Hazard Perry Roberts and his wife, Martha Woodburn (Miller) Roberts, came to Audubon county. They lived in Exira for one year and then moved to a farm in Leroy township. The farm was composed of wild land and was wholly unimproved. Mr. Roberts erected a frame building. He cut timber out of a grove, hauled it to Exira and had it sawed into boards and hauled the lumber back again to the farm. They lived on this farm of two hundred and forty acres until his death. The original farm of one hundred and twelve acres is still owned by the family. Oliver Hazard Perry Roberts was prominent in the affairs of Leroy township and also in county affairs. He was road supervisor of the north half of Audubon county and laid out the roads in conjunction with the surveyors. Martha Woodburn Miller was the daughter of Robert Miller, who was an early settler in Audubon county.

To Mr. and Mrs. O. H. P. Roberts seven children were born, namely: William S., is the subject of this sketch; Hubert Merrill lives in Los Angeles; Robert E. lives in California; Ida is the deceased wife of John Ruhs; Mrs. Mary E. Bates lives at Venice, California; Louis Woodburn lives in Los Angeles; and Oscar Perry also lives in Los Angeles.

William Sherman Roberts received a good common-school education. He attended school only three months each year and during this period worked on his father's farm. When twenty-one years of age he began farming for himself. Later he purchased eighty acres, adjoining the John Greeley farm, on which he lived for three years. In December, 1894, he moved to Audubon. He bought out a drayage business and operated it until 1908, when he went to Omaha and worked as a street-car conductor for sixteen months. He then returned and bought back his dray business again. He operates three teams which are driven by his three sons.

William Sherman Roberts was married on November 14, 1886, to Isabel Shoup, who was born in Illinois, and who is the daughter of Samuel and Nancy Shoup, former residents of Audubon county. Samuel Shoup lives in Colorado. His wife is deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. William Sherman Roberts the following children have been born: Samuel Perry; Mrs.

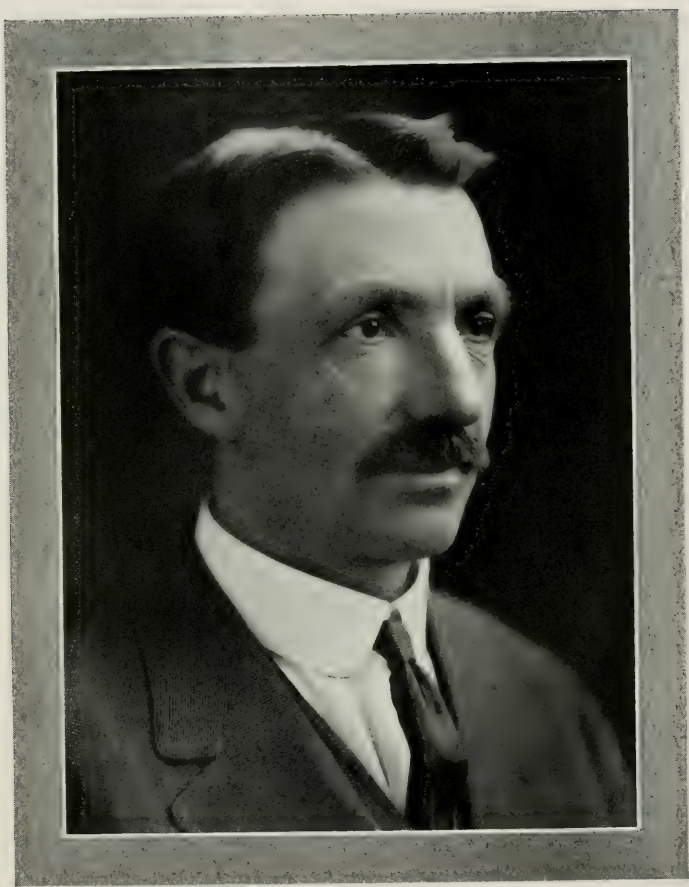
Iva May Martin, who lives at Mason City; Mrs. Cora E. Davis, who lives in Los Angeles; Mrs. Frances Katsontonefur, of Lincoln, Nebraska; and Alvin, Jesse, Glen, Lillian, Bonnie, Vernon, Louis, Edward and Martha, all of whom live at home.

In politics Mr. Roberts is identified with the Democratic party. Throughout his life he has been prominent locally in the affairs of the Democratic party. He is now serving as a member of the Audubon city council. Mr. and Mrs. Roberts and family are members of the Christian church. Mr. Roberts is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, of which he is manager. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Woodmen of the World, of which last order he is the clerk.

HON. OLE H. JACOBSON.

Hon. Ole H. Jacobson, farmer and stockman in Sharon township, and manufacturer of brick, tile and hollow-ware at Kimballton, Iowa, is one of the best-known citizens of Audubon county. Although entitled to rank as a self-made man, he received a splendid education which he has been able to turn to good account as a member of the Iowa General Assembly, where for two sessions he was recognized as one of the most prominent leaders. Perhaps the greatest single tribute to his service in this legislative assembly was the act, of which he was the author, to abolish contract labor in this state. It is a tribute to his energy and to his leadership that his fight in behalf of the measure was crowned with success, and that today in the state of Iowa contract labor is illegal. For nearly a generation this subject has been uppermost in the legislative sessions of most of the states, and though it has been abolished in some states, the fact that it obtains in others is a striking evidence of the power necessary to overcome the system by which prison-made goods are thrown into a free market in competition with the products of free labor. Mr. Jacobson had a hard fight to bring this measure to a successful issue and is entitled to the credit for its passage.

Ole H. Jacobson, the proprietor of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Sharon township, and a well-known farmer and manufacturer of this county, was born on December 4, 1866, in Denmark. His parents, Ole H., Sr., and Sophia (Petersen) Jacobson, owned a small tract of land in Denmark, where they were farmers, which was sold when the family came



OLE H. JACOBSON

to America, in 1869. They located seven miles northwest of the place where Ole H., Sr., is now living, in Shelby county, Iowa. Here he purchased land at two dollars and fifty cents an acre, and after living there for six years, in 1875, removed to Audubon county, to the farm where Ole H., Jr., is now living. This farm, comprising one hundred and sixty acres, and purchased for nine dollars an acre, was wholly unimproved. Mr. Jacobson improved the farm in various ways, and increased his holdings to three hundred and eighty acres. Here he farmed until 1894, when he retired from active life and removed to Kimballton, where he is now living. He is a veteran of the War of 1864, and was born on the island of Aro, November 22, 1834. His wife, the mother of the subject of this sketch, was born on January 21, 1835, and died on June 1, 1914. Of their nine children only five are now living. Ole H. is the only one living in Audubon county. The other living children are Chris H., Christena, Justesen, Sophia and Clarence.

Ole H. Jacobson received his education in the schools of Audubon county, and after leaving school attended the graded school of Atlantic and finally Des Moines College, of Des Moines, Iowa. Upon leaving college he located in Lincoln county, Nebraska, where he remained for five years, during which time he was engaged in selling windmills and implements. In 1893 he returned to Audubon county and located on the farm where he is now living, and which he bought and improved by the erection of a comfortable house. He is an extensive breeder and feeder of pure-bred Shorthorn cattle. He feeds about one hundred hogs every year besides cattle, raises seventy acres of corn, which yields fifty bushels to the acre, and some forty or fifty acres of small grain. All of the grain is fed to the live stock on the farm. Mr. Jacobson has invested approximately seven thousand dollars in improvements to the farm.

In 1908 Mr. Jacobson built the Crystal Spring brick and tile factory, at Kimballton. This company manufactures all kinds of brick and hollow-ware, and is the only tile factory in this part of the county.

During the sessions of 1910 and 1912, Mr. Jacobson served as a member of the Iowa General Assembly, having been elected as a Republican. Mr. Jacobson also has served as a member of the board of township trustees, having been elected for three years. During 1890-91 he was township assessor.

On December 17, 1891, Ole H. Jacobson was married to Stella Huglin, the daughter of J. M. and Sarah (Hattie) Huglin. Of the six children,

Esther, Harold, Zela, Russell, Forest and Ruth, born to this marriage, all are unmarried and live at home. Mrs. Jacobson was born in Madison county, Iowa. Her parents, the father a native of Germany, and the mother of Pennsylvania, were married in Madison county, Iowa, and farmed there until 1886, when they removed to Wayne county, Nebraska, where the father engaged in the drug business, and where he is now living retired, in Hoskins, Nebraska. The mother died on April 23, 1896. They had eight children, only five of whom, Mrs. Libbie Kern, Charles, Mrs. Jacobson, Mrs. Nettie Wetherholdt and Bert, are now living.

Mr. and Mrs. Ole H. Jacobson are members of the Baptist church, and Mr. Jacobson has served as superintendent of the Sunday school for the past fifteen years. He is a deacon and secretary and clerk of the congregation.

Any community is either better or worse for the life and career of every individual citizen who is a member of it. There can be no question that Audubon county has greatly profited from the career of Hon. Ole H. Jacobson, and that he has added distinction and honor to the fair name of this county. Honorable and upright in all the relations of life, he is popular among all classes and admired by all people.

JAMES G. WHITE.

Holding distinctive prestige among the enterprising citizens of Audubon county, Iowa, is James G. White, a well-known farmer of Greeley township. The career of James G. White is that of a self-made man, who by the exercise of the talents with which nature endowed him has risen to the position he now occupies as one of the influential and well-to-do men of Greeley township. He is a creditable representative of one of the old and highly esteemed pioneer families of Iowa, and possesses many of the admirable qualities and characteristics of his sturdy ancestors, who came to Iowa in a very early day and who have figured prominently in the history of this section.

James G. White was born on July 17, 1867, in Wapello county, Iowa. He is the son of Lieut.-Col. E. G. White, who was born on February 22, 1823, and who died on March 28, 1889. Lieut.-Col. E. G. White was born in Pennsylvania. He was a soldier in three wars. When still a young man he enlisted in the Seminole Indian War. At this time Ephraim G. White

was only sixteen years of age. He served throughout the Mexican War and fought in many battles during the period from 1846 to 1848. During the Civil War he enlisted in Company E, Twenty-second Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and served until his discharge at Savannah, Georgia, as lieutenant-colonel, July 25, 1865. He was elected first lieutenant on September 9, 1862, and was promoted to captain on January 30, 1863. He was promoted to major on June 9, 1863, and to lieutenant-colonel of the Twenty-second regiment, May 6, 1864.

Lieut.-Col. Ephraim G. White removed to Audubon county, Iowa, November, 1883. He lived on a farm in section 6, Greeley township, where he owned one hundred and sixty acres of land. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He married Nancy J. R. Robinson, who was born on June 7, 1841, in Maryland and who died on September 17, 1893. Before this, however, he had been married to Naomi Kemp, who bore him six children as follow: Eugene, who lives at Oskaloosa, Iowa; Frank, of Wichita, Kansas; Mrs. Florence Robinson, of Ft. Morgan, Colorado; Milton and Byron, of Ottumwa, and Seattle, Washington; Homer, of Oskaloosa. By the marriage to Nancy J. Robinson, who died on September 7, 1893, nine children were born, as follow: James, the subject of this sketch; Herbert, who lives at Ft. Collins, Colorado; Mrs. Mattie Clark, of Greeley township; Charles H., an attorney of Audubon; Samuel, a farmer of Greeley township; John, who lives at Spirit Lake, Iowa, where he is a farmer; Alpha, who lives at Ft. Collins, Colorado; Mrs. Esther Rabel, of Montgomery, Iowa, and Thomas, of Danbury, Iowa.

James G. White began life for himself just after having passed his majority. He began farming and has always lived in Greeley township on a farm. He has resided on the Garnett farm for twenty-two years.

James G. White was married on February 2, 1892, to Carrie Garnett, the daughter of R. H. and Nettie Garnett, natives of Illinois who came to Audubon county in 1881, and who are now living retired at Hamlin. Mrs. White was born on October 2, 1872. By this marriage six children have been born, as follow: Harry Robert, born on October 24, 1892; Walter, January 7, 1894; Ruth, December 7, 1899; Ralph, February 20, 1904; Helen, August 16, 1908; and Wayne, July 24, 1914. All of these children are living at home.

In politics Mr. White is an ardent Republican, and has served as trustee of Greeley township. His capable administration was one which was satisfactory to the people of his township. Mr. and Mrs. White and family are all members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Old Hamlin. Mr. White

is a member of the board of trustees. He is also a member of the board of stewards, and has served for many years. Mr. White is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

AMBROSE F. AIKMAN.

Among the successful self-made men of the present generation of farmers in Audubon county, Iowa, whose efforts and influence have contributed to the material upbuilding of the community, Ambrose F. Aikman occupies a conspicuous place. Being ambitious from the first, but surrounded with none too favorable environment, his early youth was not especially promising. Resolutely facing the future, however, he has gradually surmounted the difficulties in his way and in due course of time has risen to a prominent position in the commercial, agricultural and financial circles of his community. Besides all this he has won the confidence and esteem of those with whom he has come into contact, either in a business or social way, and for years he has stood as one of the representative farmers of this section of Audubon county. Mr. Aikman realized early in life that there is a purpose in life and that there is no honor not founded on worth and no respect not founded on accomplishment. His life and labors have been worthy because they have contributed to a proper understanding of life and its problems. The strongest characters in our national history have come from the ranks of self-made men to whom adversity acts as an impetus for unfaltering effort, and from this class has come Ambrose F. Aikman, a retired farmer of Gray, Iowa.

Ambrose F. Aikman was born on September 3, 1850, in Whiteside county, Illinois, on a farm. The Morrison court house now occupies the site upon which he was born. He is the son of Robert D. and Sarah Ann (Finch) Aikman, the former of whom was born in 1810, and who died in 1894, and the latter, born in 1820, and who died in 1904. Robert D. Aikman was a native of Columbia county, Pennsylvania, and his wife a native of Toronto, Canada. Robert D. Aikman was the son of James Alexander Aikman, who came from Scotland and who settled in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, before the Revolutionary War. He first settled on Cabin run, but was driven away by the Indians. He took part in the Revolutionary War. Robert D. was a pioneer in Whiteside, Illinois. He came from Pennsylvania to Lyons, Iowa, at a very early day, crossing the Mississippi

river on a horse ferry. He located in Iowa and lived awhile here. He owned a great deal of land and very much town property and became extremely wealthy. The town of Morrison is built on the site of his farm. At the time of his death he owned land in both Iowa and Illinois. Robert D. and Sarah Ann (Finch) Aikman had eight children, namely: James and Almeda are deceased; Ambrose F., is the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Mary Antoinette Forsbeck lives in Audubon county; Josephine, Irene and Helen are deceased; Frank lives south of Gray, in Lincoln township.

Ambrose F. Aikman came to Audubon county in 1873, and invested in one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 26, Lincoln township. He then went back to Illinois, but in 1879 returned to Audubon county and settled here permanently. For some time he had rented the land and had it partly improved. Mr. Aikman was married in Rock Island, Illinois, and brought his wife to Audubon county in 1882. They prospered and added one hundred and twenty acres to their holdings, making two hundred and eighty acres. The land is well improved and has excellent buildings. Mr. Aikman moved to Gray in the spring of 1913. He bought a fine home and a city block containing two sets of buildings. Mr. Aikman's one-hundred-and-twenty-acre farm is now occupied by his son.

Ambrose F. Aikman was married on February 22, 1882, to Mary Amelia Hunt, born on February 22, 1861, in England. She was a native of Yorkshire, and the daughter of George and Anna (Marston) Hunt. In 1865 she came to Whiteside county, Illinois. Her father was a brick manufacturer and owned the brick works at Morrison, Illinois. He was born in 1829, and died in 1905. His wife, Mrs. Anna (Marston) Hunt, was born in 1829, and died in 1904. George and Anna (Marston) Hunt were the parents of nine children, as follow: John lives at Morrison, Illinois; Mrs. Sarah Winsby lives at De Kalb, Illinois; William died at Morrison, Illinois; Elizabeth is deceased; Helen lives at De Kalb, Illinois; Mrs. Ambrose F. Aikman is the wife of the subject of this sketch; Thomas is deceased; Arthur lives at Morrison, Illinois; and Mrs. Etta Fox lives at De Kalb, Illinois.

To Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose F. Aikman two children have been born: George married Mary May Campbell and lives in Lincoln township; Helen Irene is a teacher in Lincoln township, and is a graduate of the Gray high school.

Mr. Aikman operated a merchandise store in Gray, in 1890 to 1891. His father built the third house in Lyons, Iowa.

Ambrose F. Aikman is a Republican. He has held various township

offices, not because he wanted to hold office, but because he considered it his duty to serve when called upon. He and his wife and family are members of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Aikman is identified with the Yeomen of America.

JAMES GOODWILL.

The biographies of successful men are instructive as guides and incentives to those whose careers are in the process of being formed. The examples they furnish of patient purpose and consecutive endeavor strongly illustrate what is in the power of each to accomplish. The gentleman whose life story here is briefly set forth, is a conspicuous example of one who has lived to good purpose and who has achieved a marked degree of success in the special sphere to which his talents and energies have been devoted. James Goodwill is a well-known farmer of Audubon county, Iowa.

James Goodwill was born on September 19, 1862, in Jasper county, Iowa, and is the son of E. E. and Sylvia (Brown) Goodwill, natives of Ohio and Indiana, respectively. E. E. Goodwill was a pioneer settler in Jasper county, having come to that county about 1847. He reared his family in Jasper and Cass counties and in 1869 they moved to Cass county. E. E. Goodwill enlisted in the Union army and was held in reserve. He came to Audubon county in 1878 and settled in Douglas township. He bought a prairie farm of eighty acres. He moved to a farm in Viola township, in 1897, and there died in 1900. E. E. Goodwill and wife had eleven children, as follow: Jasper, who lives in Council Bluffs; Wilbur, of Bismark, North Dakota; Mary, the widow of James Kelley, of Oakville, and who is now living in Bismark, North Dakota; Amanda, the wife of Macklin Smith, of Kansas; Benjamin, of near Guthrie, Oklahoma; Geneva was the wife of a Mr. Twilliger, now deceased, he having died as a result of burns received in a prairie fire in North Dakota; James lives in Audubon county; George, who lives near Spencer, in Clay county; Charles, of Omaha; one child died in infancy; and Elizabeth, deceased, who married a Mr. Ayers, and lived in North Dakota.

James Goodwill was educated in the Cass county common schools and when sixteen years old he began working out and continued until he was twenty-eight years. He was married in 1880, and began farming for himself on section 1, in Melville township. He was here one year and then moved to the George Campbell farm in Greeley township, where he remained four

years. Subsequently, he lived on the William Robinson farm in Greeley township for one year and then moved to section 35, in Melville township, where he remained fifteen years. In March, 1911, Mr. Goodwill bought ten acres in Audubon. Mrs. Goodwill owns eighty acres in section 29, in Melville township.

James Goodwill was married on February 19, 1891, to Margaret Ann (Campbell) Messersmith, daughter of George and Ann (Campbell) Messersmith, early settlers in Audubon county, Iowa. No children have been born to this union.

George Campbell was a native of Ireland, born on March 5, 1837. He died on December 12, 1910. He came to Lincoln, Illinois, October 9, 1855, and to Iowa, March 3, 1886, settling in Melville township, Audubon county. He was married on May 19, 1859, to Anne Savage, a native of Ireland, born on May 12, 1840. She died on September 24, 1908. They had a large family of children, as follow: George Alexander, born on March 5, 1860, lives in Melville township; Margaret Ann Goodwill, October 26, 1861; Mrs. Mary Eliza Shallow, November 15, 1863, and lives in Audubon; William James, November 5, 1865, lives in Melville township; Catherine, September 15, 1876, died August 8, 1877; John, October 20, 1869, lives in Melville township; Robert, October 5, 1871, died on September 12, 1889, at the age of eighteen; Mrs. Ella Egan, January 19, 1873, died on August 28, 1896, and left two children, Mrs. Anna Colville, of Morristown, South Dakota, and Bartholomew Egan, of Home, North Dakota; Thomas, February 4, 1875, lives in Melville township; Henry and Sarah, twins, December 17, 1876, the latter dying August 17, 1877; Henry is a merchant at Stuart, Iowa.

Mr. Campbell was one of the large landowners of Audubon county and owned nearly eight hundred acres. He gave each of his children eighty acres. For many years he was road supervisor and school director. He moved to Audubon seven years before his death. He and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal and Catholic church, respectively. After having lived in Illinois for a short time he invested his savings in one hundred and sixty acres of land in Melville township. Mary Ann Messersmith and two brothers came to Iowa in 1884. She kept house for her two brothers. George Campbell purchased land as he was able and prospered. Mrs. Campbell died very suddenly, and Mr. Campbell was ill only three days before his death.

James Goodwill has always been identified with the Democratic party,

but has never been especially active. He has, however, served as a member of the school board of Melville township. He is not a member of any church nor of any lodge.

JAMES BLAKE.

The office of biography is not to give voice to a man's modest estimate of himself and his accomplishments but rather to leave upon the records the verdict regarding his character established by the opinion of his neighbors and fellow citizens. In touching upon the life history of James Blake, a retired farmer of Audubon, Iowa, wholesome encomiums and extravagant praise are avoided. Mr. Blake has led a true, useful and honorable life, a life characterized by perseverance, energy, broad charity and well-defined purpose. He is a well-known citizen of Audubon and has been prominent in the agricultural affairs of this county for nearly thirty-five years and, although he has acquired a competence for his declining years, he is a man of modest and unassuming manners.

James Blake was born on May 24, 1850, in England. He was born on a farm and is the son of James, Sr., and Jane (Bridge) Blake, the former of whom was born in 1805, and who died in 1889, and the latter died in 1896. James Blake, Sr., was a farmer in England and never came to America. His sons, James, Jr., the subject of this sketch, and Richard, were the only members of the family who came to this country. Richard immigrated to America in 1869, and he now lives in Guthrie Center. James Blake, Jr., came to America in 1870 and for some time traveled over the United States, working at various occupations. He lived for a time in Ohio, for a time in Georgia, and came to Iowa in 1875, where he worked in a brick plant in Stuart. He also farmed while living in Stuart, and during the winter time engaged in mining coal. Mr. Blake came to Audubon county, in the spring of 1877, and located in Melville township. He worked by the month, receiving from twenty to twenty-five dollars each month for his services. This period of his life lasted two years, and subsequently he became foreman on a large ranch.

In 1880 James Blake was married and he then rented part of the large Musson or Brown ranch and here he was situated for two years. In 1882 he moved to the Stuart farm and lived there until 1884, at the end of which time he bought one hundred and sixty acres in Greeley township. This

land was wholly unimproved at the time and Mr. Blake purchased it for twelve and one-half dollars an acre. In 1885 he moved to the farm and for the next two years was engaged in putting the land into a good state of cultivation, fencing and draining it and erecting the necessary buildings for successful farming. In 1887 Mr. Blake moved to Dakota and lived there for two years. He rented land for one year after his sojourn in Dakota, in Guthrie county, Iowa. The first year after Mr. Blake's marriage he assisted in the construction of the railroad to Guthrie Center and during the winter he worked on the railroad from Carroll to Manning. It was during the winter of 1881 and 1882 that he was situated on the Musson ranch. Returning from Guthrie county, Iowa, Mr. Blake moved to his own farm, and in the spring of 1909 moved to Audubon. Mr. Blake owns two hundred and forty acres in Greeley township, and has three hundred and twenty acres in South Dakota.

James Blake was married on January 1, 1880, to Rebecca Lois Kinkennon, a native of Madison county, Iowa. Four of the seven children born to Mr. and Mrs. Blake are still living, namely: Minnie married James Nelson, now living in Alberta, Canada; Phoebe Jane, who is the wife of Philip Burkhart, of Guthrie county; Thomas H., who lives in Dickinson county; and James, who is at home. Myrta and two infants are deceased.

In politics, Mr. Blake is an ardent Republican, but he has never held office nor has he ever cared to hold office. While he is not a member of any church, the family are liberal supporters and interested in the welfare and progress of all religious denominations.

FRED H. HORNING.

A student interested in the history of Audubon county, Iowa, does not have to carry his investigations far into its annals before learning that Fred H. Horning, a retired farmer of Audubon, Iowa, has long been one of its most active and leading citizens, especially in agricultural and stock raising affairs. His labors have been a potent force in making this a rich agricultural region, and during several decades Mr. Horning has carried on general farming, gradually improving his valuable place until a few years ago when he moved to Audubon, since which time he has lived retired. While he has prospered in a material way, he has also found time

and opportunity to assist in the civic development of the county of his residence.

Fred H. Horning, a well-known retired farmer of Audubon, Iowa, was born on January 5, 1852, in Germany. His birthplace was Mecklenburg-Schwerin, and he is a son of John and Lena (Wendt) Horning, the former of whom died in 1865, in his native land. Fred Horning was the youngest of six children, the others being as follow: John, who died in New York state; William, living in New York; Joseph, also a resident of the state of New York; Mrs. Sophia Stade, the widow of Anton Stade, is living in New York; Mrs. Dora Krueger, living in Nebraska, is the overseer in the tailor shop of the Carnegie Industrial School.

Fred Horning came to America when nineteen years of age. He arrived in this country in the fall of 1871, and located on a farm in New York state, where he was a laborer for six years. He then removed to Polk county, Iowa, where he rented land for five years. In the spring of 1882 he purchased eighty acres of land in Cameron township, Audubon county, for which he paid twenty dollars an acre, and resided on this farm for twenty years. At the end of this period he moved to a farm one and one-half miles southwest of the first farm on which he lived after coming to the county. This farm consisted of one hundred and sixty acres. Mr. and Mrs. Horning lived on this place for seven years, at the end of which time they moved to Audubon, where Mr. Horning owns two lots and a good home. He is the owner also of two hundred and forty acres of good farming land in Cameron township, which is divided into two farms.

Fred Horning was married on February 23, 1874, to Sophia Kahler, who was born in 1854, in Germany, and who came with her brother to this country in 1862, first locating in New York state. Mr. and Mrs. Horning are the parents of ten children: Frank, living in this county; William of Cameron township; Paul, a farmer of Cameron township; Charles, also a farmer of Cameron township; Albert, a farmer; Arthur, a student in the high school at Audubon; Augusta, the wife of Henry Schroeder, a farmer of Cameron township; Hetty, the wife of John Crow, a former of this township, and they live on Mr. Horning's farm; Emma, the wife of Lou Hillyer, of Sioux City, Iowa; and Gretchen, of Sioux City.

In politics, Mr. Horning is a Democrat, and has served in the capacity of school director and road supervisor, and has filled both these offices with credit to himself and the people who appointed him. Mr. and Mrs. Horning and family are all members of the Lutheran church, and contribute liberally of their means to the support of this denomination.

GEORGE WAHLERT, JR.

The value to a community of having the right man in the office of township trustee never was better demonstrated in Greeley township, this county, than during the present incumbency, George Wahlert, Jr., the present efficient and enterprising trustee having demonstrated his peculiar fitness for the important position which he holds, and it is but proper that a work designed to set out for the consideration of future generations something of the lives of those who constitute the leading citizenry of Audubon county in this generation should carry a fitting review of the interesting career of Trustee Wahlert.

George Wahlert, Jr., was born in Henry county, Illinois, October 23, 1878, the son of Jergen and Lena (Dommeier) Wahlert, further details of whose lives will be found set out at length in the interesting biographical sketch relating to Jergen Wahlert, presented elsewhere in this volume. George Wahlert came to this county at the tender age of three years, his parents having moved here from Illinois in the year 1881, and he was reared on the parental farm and attended the district schools of Greeley township until he was seventeen years of age, living at home until he was nineteen, at which time he commenced "working out" on neighboring farms, continuing this form of activity for three years, at the end of which time he bought a half interest in a farm with William Hensley, this partnership continuing for three years. Mr. Wahlert then bought eighty acres of unimproved land from Mr. Hensley in section 16, of Greeley township, and has ever since made his residence there. In addition to improving this original eighty acres, Mr. Wahlert has added thereto by the purchase of an additional eighty on the east and one hundred and twenty acres in section 20, of the same township, all of which he has improved and brought to a high state of cultivation. He has given considerable attention to the breeding of pure-bred stock and has a full-blooded registered Percheron stallion, one of the best animals of that breed in Audubon county. He also feeds quite a few cattle and is noted for the excellent quality of his stock, all of which is kept up to the best standard.

On February 11, 1903, George Wahlert was united in marriage to Mamie Hensley, daughter of William Hensley, who died on June 7, 1906. On January 20, 1909, Mr. Wahlert married, secondly, Minnie Gripp, of Moline, Illinois, who was born on May 8, 1887, in Moline, the daughter of James H. and Anna (Dohrn) Gripp, both of whom were natives of Hol-

stein, Germany, who came to this country with their parents when children. The Gripps came to Audubon county in 1892, but returned to Moline in 1904 and are still living there. To Mr. and Mrs. Wahlert four children have been born, but two of whom are living, James H., born on January 28, 1912, and Marion Arnold, July 4, 1914.

Mr. and Mrs. Wahlert are not members of any church, though they are attendants on and supporters of the Methodist church. Mr. Wahlert is a Democrat and is keenly interested in the county's politics. He is a leader in his township, which he is now serving very acceptably as township trustee. He and his wife are hospitable and genial folk and are deservedly popular among their hosts of friends.

JESSE A. HUMISTON.

The following is a biography of a plain, honest man of affairs, who, by correct methods and a strict regard for the interests of the patrons of the railroad which he serves, has made his influence felt in Audubon and won for himself a position of confidence in the business circles of this city. Jesse A. Humiston, the agent of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway, at Audubon, Iowa, commands the entire confidence and respect of his fellow townsmen and is much admired by the people of this county.

Jesse A. Humiston was born on August 12, 1868, at Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, the son of Alonzo B. and Orcelia (Brown) Humiston, the former of whom was born in 1838, and who died in 1908, and the latter, born in 1841, and who died in 1893. Mrs. Orcelia (Brown) Humiston was of German and Scotch ancestry. Alonzo B. Humiston was born in America, and was a son of German parents who settled in Wisconsin. In 1841 Alonzo Humiston settled in Tama county, Iowa, and conducted a general merchandise store in Tama. After his wife's death he disposed of his business and for a number of years lived in Colorado with a daughter. Alonzo Humiston and wife were the parents of three children: Mrs. Julia Spencer, of Clinton, Iowa; Mrs. Nellie C. Hobden, of Colorado Springs, Colorado; and Jesse A., the immediate subject of this review.

Jesse A. Humiston was educated in the schools of Tama, Iowa, and early in life began learning telegraphy, completing his instruction in this line at Bellevue, Iowa, when about fifteen years of age. He was first employed for one year at Bellevue by the Chicago & Milwaukee Railway Com-

pany. Subsequently he worked two years in Milwaukee, and was then employed by the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railway Company for two years. Since that time he has been employed by the Chicago & Northwestern. Mr. Humiston has been heavily interested for several years in farming lands in Iowa. In 1899 Mr. Humiston purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land, which he sold in 1913, realizing handsomely on his real estate transaction.

Jesse A. Humiston was married in September, 1888, to Emma Scott, of Cedar Rapids, the daughter of William H. Scott.

Mr. Humiston is an adherent of the Republican party, but his business interests have prevented his taking a very active part in political matters. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias. He and his wife are devoted members of the Presbyterian church, and active in the work of this denomination.

CHARLES R. WILSON.

Audubon county owes much to the gentleman whose name appears above for the great interest he has shown in improving the strain of horse-flesh in this section and the reader will be interested in knowing something in detail of the life of this prominent and enterprising Greeley township farmer.

Charles R. Wilson was born in Vinton county, Ohio, February 17, 1850, the son of Thomas and Sarah (Robbins) Wilson, both of whom also were natives of Ohio, the former a son of John Wilson, a Virginian, and the latter a daughter of Charles Robbins, a New Yorker, both members of Colonial families, who moved to Missouri in 1857. Thomas Wilson was one of that glorious band who freely laid down their lives for the preservation of the Union in the sixties, he having been killed in the battle of Chillicothe, Missouri, February 8, 1862. His brother, Creighton, was killed in the battle of Champion Hill, in August, 1864, and his brother, George, received a severe wound at the siege of Atlanta, all having been gallant soldiers of the Union.

Charles R. Wilson was one of a family of eleven children and remained at home until he was fifteen years of age. His mother having remarried, Charles R. started out "on his own" and was apprenticed to learn the harness and saddlers' trade, but did not complete this apprenticeship and worked at odd jobs for seven years, at the end of which time he married and rented a farm in Missouri, working there one year. In 1874 he came to this county,

renting a farm near Exira, on which he lived for five years, at the end of which time he bought eighty acres of land in section 23, of Greeley township. At the time he began to break this virgin land he had twenty-three dollars and thirty-five cents in cash, a team of horses and a wagon, but he and his wife had stout hearts and willing hands and they presently had a comfortable home. As they prospered they added to their holdings and now own two hundred acres of as good land as lies in Greeley township, all of which is well improved and under a high state of cultivation. Mr. Wilson has given much attention to the breeding of full-blooded stock and is one of the county's heaviest breeders of Percheron horses, possessing two stallions of this breed which are as fine horses as any in the county, his "Francis Javan" having won a first and a second premium at the county fair. He also makes a specialty of pure-bred, registered Shorthorn cattle and has done much toward improving the breed of stock in this part of the state.

On September 4, 1873, Charles R. Wilson was united in marriage to Florinda Campbell, of Sullivan county, Missouri, daughter of James M. and Marguerite (Sorter) Campbell, natives of Pennsylvania and New York, respectively, the former of whom was born at Meadville and the latter at Friendship. James M. Campbell was a miller and came to Iowa in 1845, moving, in 1851, to Missouri, where he operated a mill, and during the Civil War was captain of the local company of "home guards," a man of fine deportment and of large influence in the community in which he lived.

To Charles R. and Florinda (Campbell) Wilson have been born eight children: Ora I., born on August 18, 1875, who married Nellie Albert (now deceased), of Lemon, South Dakota; Almira, May 9, 1878, married W. E. Trent, and has two children, Florinda and Forrest; Norval J., December 28, 1879, attended Highland Park College, at Des Moines, Iowa, was township assessor of Greeley township for two years and is now a homesteader in Colorado; George L., February 10, 1882, married Mae Picking and has one child, a daughter, Helen F.; Phoebe J., January 14, 1884, married Fred A. Eckert and has four children, Leonard, Robert, Carl and Fern; Carlos, September 27, 1887, married Nellie Duvall and has four children, Vernon, Ruby, Wilma and Beuna; Claus C., February 22, 1893, lives at home; and Doleta, September 30, 1895, was graduated from Dennison College and is teaching school in Greeley township. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson also reared a granddaughter, Golda, born on September 25, 1894, who was graduated from Dennison College and also is a teacher in the schools of Greeley township.

The Wilsons are supporters of the Christian (Campbellite) church and

are active in all good works of their neighborhood. Mr. Wilson is a Republican and is warmly interested in the political affairs of the county, but never has been included in the office-seeking class, being content to give the best of his time and attention to his own large private interest. He and Mrs. Wilson are leaders in the social life of their neighborhood and are held in the highest esteem by a very large circle of friends and acquaintances.

CHRISTEN HANSEN.

The proud owner of a splendid farm of two hundred and twenty acres in Sharon township, Audubon county, Iowa, Christen Hansen, was born in Denmark, December 16, 1864, and is a son of Hans Christen and Anna Hansen, both native citizens of Denmark, where the former was a wagon-maker by trade, which he followed until his death. His wife, the mother of Christen Hansen, is still living in their native country. Christen is the only child born to his parents.

After being educated in the public schools of his native land, Mr. Hansen engaged in farming and worked on various farms until he arrived at the age of nineteen, when he came to America, and located in Sharon township, Audubon county. Here he worked as a farm hand for four years, and then purchased eighty acres of land, upon which he is now living, for which he paid eighteen dollars and a half an acre. From time to time he has added to his original land holdings until he is now the owner of two hundred and twenty acres, which is devoted to general farming and where he raises on an average of seventy-five acres of corn each year, and has a yield of fifty bushels to the acre. He also raises some seventy acres of small grain each year; feeds seventy head of hogs and several head of cattle for the markets annually. Mr. Hansen has invested, approximately, seventy-five hundred dollars in improvements upon his farm.

In 1888, Christen Hansen was married to Sine Ericksen, the daughter of Alexander Ericksen, and to this union have been born four children, Henry, Albert, Martin and Lawrence, all of whom are unmarried and living at home, with the exception of Henry, who married Sophia Larson, and they have one child, Wilma.

Mr. and Mrs. Hansen and family are members of the Seventh Day Adventist church, in which Mr. Hansen has served as trustee. A Republican in politics, he has also served as trustee of Sharon township, and as a school director in this township.

Christen Hansen enjoys the respect of his neighbors and the confidence of all the people of Sharon township, where he is well known and where he is popular. Here he is known as an enterprising and successful farmer, a worthy citizen of this great county and of his adopted country.

J. HENRY BAKER.

J. Henry Baker, one of the old residents of Audubon township, and, one of the early settlers of Audubon county, where he has long been engaged in farming, was born on August 25, 1850, in Missouri, the son of Henry and Mary A. Baker, natives of Westfall, Germany. His parents were married in Germany and after coming to the United States about 1848, settled in the state of Missouri. About 1851, when J. Henry Baker was a years old, bought forty acres of land in section 4, Audubon township. They Illinois, and still later to Hancock county, Illinois. In 1869 they came to Audubon county, arriving here November 8, of that year. The father and the son, J. Henry, the subject of this sketch, who at that time was nineteen years old, bought forty acres of land in section 4, Audubon township. They built a house, fourteen by sixteen feet, of rough lumber and consisting of two rooms. This house was situated across the creek, northwest of Mr. Baker's present home. Here the family lived until the parents died and after their death, Mr. Baker built his present home. When he purchased the land, it was raw prairie and the nearest neighbor was three miles away. During all these years Mr. Baker has made many improvements on this farm. He is engaged in general farming and stock raising and keeps only the very best quality of live stock. He milks about six head of cows. He has added to his land and now has one hundred and twenty acres. Mr. Baker's father lived to be ninety-five years old and is well remembered by the citizens of this township for his many sterling qualities.

J. Henry Baker was married at the age of twenty-seven, March 1, 1877, in Quincy, Adams county, Illinois, to Mary K. Vanholt, who was born in Adams county, Illinois, March 1, 1860, and who, after rearing a family of three sons, passed away on January 4, 1915. During her life she was a devoted wife and a loving mother and did much in behalf of her husband's success. Mrs. Baker's parents were Henry and Louise (Clark) Vanholt, who were born in Germany, and who came to the United States in 1859. The three children born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Henry Baker are: John



J. HENRY BAKER AND FAMILY

W., born on January 20, 1879; Charles A., July 4, 1883, and Louis A., December 13, 1893. John W. and Louis A. live with Mr. Baker on the home place. Charles A. is farming for himself.

Mr. Baker is a Republican in politics, but has never held office, except that of road supervisor, an office which he filled for four years. The Baker family are members of the Christian church. Mr. Baker and his wife were charter members of the Audubon township church. Mrs. Baker was an earnest Christian and, during her entire life, took an active part in the work of the church.

An honorable citizen of Audubon township, J. Henry Baker has many friends in this section of Audubon county. He is a man of genial manners and affable by nature. Mr. Baker has a comfortable income from the farm and enjoys the satisfaction of knowing that his career as a farmer has been successful. He is a man of most sterling character, upright and honorable in all the relations of life.

REV. ALFRED H. DELETZKE.

Rev. Alfred H. Deletzke, pastor of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran church, of Grant township, Guthrie county, for the past five years, has had a most interesting career. It is a career which has been filled with service of a most lasting and important kind. Highly educated for the ministerial profession, Reverend Deletzke having consecrated his life to the spread of the gospel, has worked unceasingly in the Master's vineyard and of his work it may be truly said that it has not been in vain. He has ministered to many people and, without exception, has brought into their lives the example of a noble-minded, self-denying and self-sacrificing Christian gentleman.

Alfred H. Deletzke was born on February 24, 1869, in Dodge county, Wisconsin, the son of Henry and Emily (Hensel) Deletzke, natives of the province of Posen, Germany. They were farmers in their native land and came to the United States in 1867 or 1868, and were married in Dodge county, Wisconsin. At that time the father worked in the iron smelting factories of Iron Ridge. In the spring of 1871 he purchased a timber farm in Shawano county, Wisconsin, where he and his wife lived until their deaths. They were the parents of five children: Alfred H., Hulda, Clara, Theodore and Amanda.

After living at home until he was fourteen years old, and attending the common schools until that age, Alfred H. Deletzke went to Wittenberg, Wisconsin, where he studied the classical languages. Subsequently, he settled in Milwaukee for three years, and in 1887 he went to Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he attended Concordia College, being graduated with the class of 1889. After leaving Fort Wayne, he went to St. Louis, Missouri, where he studied for three years in Concordia Seminary, being graduated there with the class of 1892.

After completing his classical and religious education and training, Rev. Alfred H. Deletzke accepted a call as a missionary in McCook and surrounding counties of western Nebraska. After being stationed there almost three years, he was called to Spencer, Iowa, where he served as a missionary and also had a small congregation. From Spencer, Iowa, where he remained for seven and one-half years, he was called to the vicinity of Ft. Dodge, Iowa, where he was pastor of a congregation for another seven and one-half years. Rev. Deletzke then became superintendent of the orphans' asylum at Ft. Dodge and in that capacity, traveled over the entire state of Iowa in search of homes for children. After filling that office for two years, he was called to his present field, the St. John's Evangelical Lutheran church, of Grant township, Guthrie county, Iowa. This church is located on the Audubon-Guthrie county line. Reverend Deletzke accepted the call in May, 1910, and has filled the pulpit of this church since that time. He is an eloquent preacher and a pastor who is popular with his congregation.

On May 15, 1894, Alfred H. Deletzke was married, in Nebraska, to Emma Grovert, who was born on January 29, 1876, in Benton county, Iowa, and who is a daughter of Henry and Ernestine (Ferch) Grovert. They were natives of Germany, the former of Holstein and the latter of Posen, who came to the United States in 1868, and located in Davenport, Iowa. Later they moved to Benton county, Iowa, and in 1888 moved to Nebraska, where they purchased land in Hitchcock county, near Trenton. Here they still live.

Rev. Alfred H. Deletzke and wife have had seven children, namely: Alfred, born on July 19, 1895; Ada, August 24, 1897; Elsie, August 11, 1899; Florence, June 20, 1902; Thelma, October 5, 1904; Norman, August 5, 1908; and Irma, October 1, 1912. The first three children were born at Spencer, Iowa, the next three at Ft. Dodge and the youngest in Audubon county.

Although Rev. Deletzke is a Republican in politics, he has never held office nor has he ever aspired to office. Nevertheless, he takes an active

interest in public affairs and is considered a wise and efficient counsellor on public questions. He is well informed on political and social questions and has been especially helpful in developing a better community spirit in this section of the state.

JAMES F. EGAN.

In Greeley township, this county, there live two brothers, the Egan, James F. and George, a biographical sketch of the latter of whom the reader will find presented elsewhere in these pages. Few men in that part of the county are better known or more deservedly popular than these brothers and it is a pleasure for the biographer to set out here the biography of the first named, a progressive and industrious farmer of Greeley township.

James F. Egan was born on a farm just west of Iowa City, in Johnson county, Iowa, January 28, 1868, the son of Thomas and Catherine (McTyge) Egan, natives of Ireland, the former of whom was born in County Cork and the latter in County Mayo. Thomas Egan was a mere lad when he came to America and he grew up to the life of a farmer in the state of New Jersey, where he married Catherine McTyge, and in the year 1860 came to Iowa, locating in Johnson county, where he bought land and where he remained until 1880, in which year he sold out and moved to Shelby county, and in 1883, to Audubon county, where for a year he rented land, at the end of which time he moved to Holt county, Nebraska, where he entered a claim on which he lived for six years. Selling out there in 1889, he came back to Audubon county and bought eighty acres in section 10, of Greeley township, spending his last days there, his death occurring on April 7, 1906. Thomas and Catherine (McTyge) Egan were the parents of seven children, whose names are set out in the sketch of George Egan, presented elsewhere in this volume.

James F. Egan received a district-school education and remained on the parental farm until he reached his majority, after which, for two years, he "worked out" on neighboring farms, at the end of which time he rented a farm in Guthrie county, on the Audubon-Guthrie county line, on which he remained for twelve years. In the spring of 1902 he bought one hundred and twenty acres in section 11, of Greeley township, this county, on which he since has made his home. He remodeled the dwelling house on this farm and has built two large barns and other outbuildings to correspond, his place being very well kept.

On September 12, 1892, James F. Egan was united in marriage to Cecilia Snyder, of Exira, who was born in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, January 12, 1870, the daughter of William and Sarah (Adams) Snyder, also natives of Pennsylvania, the former of whom was born in Lehigh county and the latter in Berks county, who located in Polk county, Iowa, in 1877, and moved from there to Audubon county in 1885.

To James F. and Cecilia (Snyder) Egan have been born three children, namely: Eva, born on June 10, 1893, who married Charles Kopeska and has three children, Violet, Olive and Albert; Julia, November 8, 1898; and James F., Jr., March 18, 1904. Mr. Egan is a member of the Catholic church and Mrs. Egan is a member of the Evangelical church. He is a Democrat, was constable for two terms and has been school director for seven terms. The Egan family are well known and popular in their home community and are held in high esteem by a large circle of acquaintances.

FREW HAYS.

One of the best-improved and most productive farms in Greeley township, this county, is that of the gentleman whose name the reader notes above, a farm which he has converted from the virgin prairie to a highly-cultivated tract on which is situated a fine home and commodious farm buildings, one of the model farms of the neighborhood in which it is located.

Frew Hays was born in Rock Island county, Illinois, December 1, 1854, the son of Frew and Mary (Robbins) Hays, natives of Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, farming people and the parents of nine children, of whom Frew, Jr., was the youngest. The senior Hays died in the year in which his youngest son was born, and the latter lived with his mother until he was married. In 1876 the widowed mother came to Audubon county, where her son, Samuel, previously had located, and later moved to Guthrie county, her home being on the Audubon-Guthrie line.

Following his marriage in 1875, Frew Hays rented a farm in Rock Island county, Illinois, on which he made his home until 1879, in which year he moved to Audubon county, arriving here the latter part of January, he some years previously having bought a farm of eighty acres of railroad land on section 13, of Greeley township, paying for the same eight dollars an acre. On this farm he established his home, his first dwelling house being a building eighteen by twenty-two feet, divided into three rooms, his barn being

but a straw shed. On this farm Mr. Hays prospered from the very beginning and he presently added to his holdings by the purchase of a tract of one hundred and sixty acres adjoining. In 1899 he built a large house and in 1904 built a commodious barn, the outbuildings of the place corresponding, and now he has one of the best-improved farms in Greeley township and is accounted well-to-do. He is active and energetic and deserves all the success which has come to him.

On December 8, 1875, at Muscatine, Iowa, Frew Hays was united in marriage with Louesa M. Reed, who was born in Mercer county, Illinois, the daughter of Leonidas V. and Elizabeth (Thur) Reed, natives, respectively, of North Carolina and of Germany. To this union nine children were born, eight of whom are still living: Loro M., who married Oscar Miller, of Greeley township, this county, and has three children, Olive, Winnie and Iva; Jennie L., who married John Shoesmith and has two children, Ronald and Velma May; Nina B., who married William Alt and has two children, Ruth and Raymond; Mary lives at home; Lennie, who married George Alt and has three children, Harley, Gilbert and Mainard; F. Lee, who married Nellie Noe; and Alburtis and Winnie, who live at home. Emma died at the tender age of ten years.

The Hays family are all members of the Baptist church, and are actively interested in the good work of the community and are held in the highest regard by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. Mr. Hays is a Democrat, but apart from exercising his right of franchise takes little interest in politics. He is a substantial farmer, a good citizen, an excellent neighbor and naturally enough has the full confidence of his community.

NATHANIEL TURNER.

Greeley township, this county, mainly is occupied by the original settlers therein, the men who broke the virgin soil of the fertile prairie and who now, many of them not far past middle age, are enjoying the ripe fruits of their labors, having profited well by the exercise of their pioneering spirits. Among the best known of these original settlers is Nathaniel Turner, proprietor of "Greeley Center Farm," one of the best-kept places in the township.

Nathaniel Turner was born in Fulton county, Illinois, January 24, 1856, the son of John and Nancy (Miller) Turner, natives, respectively, of

Kentucky and Indiana, farmers and the parents of eleven children, of whom Nathaniel was the third in order of birth. John Turner served the Union during the latter part of the Civil War as a private in Company G, Eleventh Illinois Cavalry, and shortly after the close of the war moved his family to this county, arriving at Exira on October 28, 1868, having driven overland from McDonough county, Illinois. The family lived in Exira until 1870, keeping hotel there for a time, and then moved to Lewisville, where for a year or two they rented a farm and then bought what is known as the old Ingham farm, south of Exira. After a few years' residence there John Turner resumed the renting of land and thus continued his farming until the encroachments of age retired him for further strenuous activities, after which he and his wife made their home with their son, Nathaniel, and family.

Nathaniel Turner received but a limited education in his youth and upon reaching his majority married and rented a farm, on which he lived for ten or twelve years, and then bought eighty acres in section 22, of Greeley township, this county, on which he ever since has made his home. Upon taking this farm Mr. Turner was confronted with the task of breaking the virgin sod and his neighbors were few and far between. He and his wife started housekeeping in a house fourteen by sixteen feet, of two rooms, to which they later added another room. Straw sheds were used as shelters for his horses and cattle. In 1901 he built a barn thirty-six by sixty feet, and in 1904 erected a fine eight-room house, his home now being one of the pleasantest in that part of the county. He since has erected another barn and additional farm buildings and his place presents a very well-kept appearance, indeed. As he prospered, Mr. Turner added to his holdings by the purchase of an additional eighty-acre farm in section 21, which he also has brought to an excellent state of cultivation.

On January 4, 1877, in old Lewisville, this county, Nathaniel Turner was united in marriage to Marguerite Frances Richardson, who was born in Jones county, Iowa, December 3, 1861, the daughter of Samuel and Phoebe (Clemmer) Richardson, pioneers of that section, the former of whom was killed in battle about a year after his enlistment as a Union soldier during the Civil War, leaving a widow and four children, Mrs. Turner having been the third in order of birth. Mrs. Richardson remarried and the family, in 1870, came to Audubon county, but shortly returned to Jones county, returning to this county, however, in 1876. The next year, however, the mother returned to Jones county, where she spent the rest of her life.

To Nathaniel and Marguerite F. (Richardson) Turner two children were born, Roscoe, born on May 13, 1879, who married Edith Pine and

has one child, a daughter, Lois; and Alice, born on February 7, 1894, who attended college at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and is now living at home. The Turners are earnest members and supporters of the Methodist church and were largely instrumental in the organization of the church of that denomination at Greeley Center, Mr. Turner having donated the land on which the church was erected and ever since has been an active supporter of and interested worker of the church.

Mr. Turner is a Democrat, but makes no pretensions to being a politician. Though he has been elected to township offices he has never cared to qualify for the same. His interest in educational matters, however, is of the active sort and for fifteen years he served very acceptably as school director in his district, his services in that connection having proved very valuable to the interests of the youth of the district. The Turners are held in high regard by a large circle of friends and acquaintances and are popular with all.

ANDREW P. TOPP.

Born in Schleswig, Germany, February 22, 1868, Andrew P. Topp, a well-known farmer of Sharon township, and the owner of a splendid farm of one hundred and sixty acres, is the son of Peter and Mary (Petersen) Topp, both of whom were natives of Germany, where they lived all their lives, and where the father dealt in live stock and operated a small farm. Their five children, Jacob, Mrs. Mary Hansen, and three others are all living, but only Jacob and Mrs. Hansen are living in Audubon county, besides Andrew.

Educated in the schools of his native land, Andrew P. Topp worked with his father on the farm after leaving school until he came to America in 1886. He located first in Scott county, Iowa, and there he worked as a farm hand for about two years, after which he came to Audubon county and located here permanently. After working in Audubon county for four years, however, he again removed, this time to Minnesota, where he was foreman of a cattle ranch for about two years. Returning once more to Audubon county, Iowa, he purchased eighty acres of land in Sharon township, on which he is now living, and which he subsequently increased to one hundred and sixty acres. The farm was wholly unimproved when Mr. Topp purchased it, and during his ownership and management he has invested approximately thirty-five hundred dollars in various improvements. He is accustomed

to raising about fifty-five acres of corn which yields on an average fifty bushels to the acre, besides thirty-five acres of small grain, most of which he feeds to live stock, selling annually about eighty-five head of hogs.

Andrew P. Topp was married in 1900 to Helen Christensen, the daughter of Chris and Sine Christensen, and to this union six children have been born, Peter, Sine, Chris, Edward, Mary and Leona, all of whom are living at home. Mrs. Topp is a daughter of native-born Danish parents, although she was born in Illinois, and came to Audubon county, Iowa, when a small child. They located in Sharon township. Her father is now retired and lives in Kimballton. They were the parents of six children, all of whom are living.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew P. Topp are members of the Danish-Lutheran church, and Mr. Topp has served as treasurer of the church. Politically, he is a Democrat, and has taken an active interest in the civic affairs of his township, serving as school director of Sharon township, and is at present the efficient and capable township trustee. He is also treasurer of the local school board.

Andrew P. Topp is a well-known and successful farmer, a man who is thoroughly engrossed by his vocation; a born optimist, of pleasant and agreeable manners and popular in the neighborhood where he lives, and as a husbandman he has no superiors and few equals in Sharon township.

JORGEN MARCUSEN.

Very few young men born in the thriving little kingdom of Denmark, who have sought fortunes in this country, have failed to achieve a satisfactory measure of success; some, however, have succeeded to a larger extent than others. Among the most successful and enterprising citizens of Audubon county, who have come here from Denmark, is Jorgen Marcusen, a farmer of Sharon township and a well-known banker of this county. He is interested in many enterprises in this section of Iowa and, possessed with genius for good business management, has been eminently successful in his personal and private affairs. Many political honors have also come to Mr. Marcusen and, in no case, has he ever failed in the performance of his duty, whether private or public.

Jorgen Marcusen, who, among other things, owns a splendid farm of two hundred and forty acres in Sharon township, is a native of Denmark.

born there June 1, 1864. His parents, Christian and Margaret Marcusen, both natives of Denmark, came to America in 1882. The father was a laborer in his native land, who, after locating in section 28 of Sharon township, purchased forty acres of land for which he paid nine dollars an acre; he made many improvements on this farm and remained on it until his death in 1895, his wife surviving him until 1898. They had five children, Jens, Chris, Hans, Nick and Jorgen. Christian Marcusen served in the Danish-Prussian War, of 1848, the period of his enlistment having extended over three years.

Most of Jorgen Marcusen's education was received in the schools of his native land and, after he had finished his education, he worked as a farm hand; in fact, Mr. Marcusen has been practically self-supporting since he was seven years old. Immediately after coming to America, when seventeen years old, he worked as a farm hand for various neighboring farmers, the first year receiving ninety dollars for his services. In 1884 he purchased forty acres of land in section 28 and paid twelve dollars an acre for it. In the meantime, he had broken the sod and four years later he began farming for himself, dividing his attention between his father's farm and the forty acres which he himself owned. At the same time he was engaged in breaking the prairie sod for other people and continued to follow this occupation, saving something each year from his earnings, until he now has the two hundred and forty acre farm in Sharon township. Altogether, Mr. Marcusen has invested seven thousand dollars in improvements on the place; they consist of many outbuildings, good fences, good ditches and good roads. Ordinarily, he raises one hundred and twenty-five acres of corn each year and sixty acres of small grain, and feeds one hundred and twenty head of hogs each year and milks thirty head of cows.

Jorgen Marcusen was married in 1897 to Martha Larson, the daughter of N. C. Larson. Four children have been born to this union: Oscar, Laura, Clara and Orla. Mrs. Marcusen was born in Denmark and her parents are now living in that country. Her father is a government official, located at Fradenburg, Denmark; he takes care of the government timber land and has been employed in this work since he was twenty years old. N. C. Larson and wife have been the parents of fourteen children, eight of whom are living in this country: Mrs. Marcusen, Johanna, Walter, William, Axel, Anna, Sena and Karen. The other six children are living in their native land: Digny, Ingebort, Christian, Marie, Petra and Egner.

Aside from the two hundred and forty acres of land in Sharon township, which Mr. Marcus owns, he is a director and treasurer of the At-

lantic and Northern Railway Company and is also a director in the Kimballton Savings Bank, of which he was one of the organizers. For a young man, who came to this country without any money whatever and who even found it necessary to borrow money to pay for his passage, it must be admitted that Jorgen Marcusen has achieved splendid success in his adopted country. Moreover, Mr. Marcusen's energy, his talent and his industry have been recognized by the people of Audubon county since many positions of trust and responsibility have been bestowed upon him. He has served as justice of the peace and as township clerk for six years. Formerly, he was treasurer of the Kimballton Creamery and is secretary of the corporation at this time.

Mr. and Mrs. Marcusen and family are members of the Danish Lutheran church. In politics, Mr. Marcusen is identified with the Democratic party.

There are no more patriotic citizens living in the state of Iowa than Jorgen Marcusen and no Danish lad has ever come to this country with a fuller realization of his opportunities and a sterner determination to succeed than he. Mr. Marcusen's family is popular in Sharon township and his children are regarded as worthy sons and daughters. Jorgen Marcusen is a man of charitable and kindly impulses, genial in his manners, frank and open in all of his dealings.

GEORGE L. JORGENSEN.

George L. Jorgensen, the owner of a farm containing one hundred and sixty acres, in Sharon township, Audubon county, Iowa, and one of the well-known citizens of this township, was born on July 6, 1861, in Denmark. He is the son of Christian L. and Anna (Albertson) Jorgensen, and is a brother of Albert H. Jorgensen, whose life history is recorded elsewhere in this volume. Mr. Jorgensen's parents were both natives of Denmark; his father, a sailor by occupation, followed this occupation all of his life not only in his native land, but in America. In 1872 he came to this country and after locating in Chicago, sailed on Lake Michigan for three years, at the end of which time he returned to Denmark to his family and lived there the remainder of his life, passing away in 1913. He was a veteran of the Danish-Prussian War of 1848 and the father of the following children: George L., Carrie, Albert H., Sophia and Anna. Johanna is deceased.

George L. Jorgensen received his education in the Danish schools and after leaving school, worked in the neighborhood as a farm hand until he came to America in 1879; at this time he was only eighteen years old. Nevertheless, he came determined to succeed in the new country and brought with him a strong heart and a sound body, which have served him well in the quest of fortune.

After locating in Shelby county, Iowa, on coming to America, he worked here as a farm hand for three years and then moved to Cass county, Iowa, where he worked for one year. In 1883, when he was twenty-two years old, he located in Sharon township, Audubon county, Iowa, and purchased the farm upon which he is now living. Having in the meantime been able to save considerable money from his earnings as a farm hand, Mr. Jorgensen first purchased eighty acres of land, for which he paid twelve dollars an acre. He found it necessary to break the sod, as the land consisted largely of raw prairie, and he built a two-roomed house, fourteen by twenty-two feet and about eight feet high. Since 1883 he has invested approximately five thousand dollars in various kinds of improvements. He raises sixty acres of corn each year, which averages not less than fifty bushels to the acre. Mr. Jorgensen feeds sixty head of hogs every year and a carload of cattle; he keeps only a very high grade of live stock and this has been the feature of his success of mixed farming. Mr. Jorgensen had only nine dollars in money when he arrived in America, and it must be admitted that he has achieved a remarkable success.

Three years after arriving in this country, or in 1882, Mr. Jorgensen was married to Sarah A. Stone, the daughter of Frank and Mary Stone. Mr. and Mrs. Jorgensen have had eight children, four of whom, three daughters and a son, are now married. The children are, Anna, Frank, George, Nettie, Clara, Albert, Sarah and Carrie. Anna married Chris Jorgensen and has six children, Frank, Elmer, Ralph, Mignus, Thelma and Norma; Frank married Christena Hansen, and they have one child, Ramona; Nettie married Albert Petersen and has three children, Ralph, Esther and Clifford; Clara married Vigo Rasmussen and has four children, Irma, Donald, Victor and Lanor.

Mr. Jorgensen is prominent as a citizen of Sharon township, which is evident from the fact that he has held nearly all of the township offices. He has served as trustee, school director, road supervisor and township clerk. Politically, he is a progressive Republican and one of the ardent admirers of Senator Cummins in this section. The Jorgensen family are members of

the Danish Lutheran church and Mr. Jorgensen has held practically all of the offices in the congregation.

No citizen of Sharon township is better known outside of the township perhaps than George L. Jorgensen, and no citizen of Sharon township is better liked by the people of his neighborhood who know him best. While he has been keenly interested in his progress as a farmer, he has not neglected the larger interests, and his support in behalf of worthy public movements can always be depended upon.

CHRIS H. CHRISTIANSEN.

Chris H. Christiansen, who came to this country when a youth of nineteen, has enjoyed a successful and honorable career in his adopted country. There are few citizens living in Sharon township more widely known than Mr. Christiansen, and few who have a larger circle of friends.

An enterprising farmer, the owner of two hundred acres of land in Sharon and Douglas townships, Audubon county, Iowa, Chris H. Christiansen was born on December 27, 1861, in Denmark. His parents were Chris and Anna Marie Christiansen, both natives of Denmark, the former of whom was a laborer in his native land all of his life. Mr. and Mrs. Christiansen had five children, three of whom are now living: Mrs. Mary Smith, Albert and Chris H., Jr.

Chris H. Christiansen, Jr., received his education principally in the schools of Denmark, and after completing his education, worked in the neighborhood of his home as a farm hand until he was nineteen years old. In 1880 he came to America and after an uneventful voyage across the Atlantic, he came direct to Audubon county and worked here as a farm hand for a few years. Out of his savings, he was subsequently able to buy eighty acres of land in Sharon township, the place upon which he now lives and for which he paid thirteen dollars an acre. Mr. Christiansen, however, has invested seven thousand dollars in improvements upon the farm. Ordinarily he raises, annually, seventy acres of corn, which in 1914 yielded sixty-five bushels to the acre. When he came to America, he had only about twenty-five dollars in money, and with this small nucleus as a starter, he has been able to acquire a substantial fortune.

In 1889 Chris H. Christiansen was married to Mary Petersen, the daughter of Hans and Anna Marie Petersen. The marriage took place

about nine years after Mr. Christiansen had come to America, when he was twenty-eight years old. He and his wife are the parents of three children: Chris, Hans is deceased, and Anna. Chris married Christena Larsen and has one child, Maren Hilda.

For a young man, unacquainted with our language and our customs, who began working in this country for seven dollars a month, breaking sod and doing other hard and laborious work, the career of Chris H. Christiansen is a conspicuous success and a splendid example of what other young men may accomplish. When he first came to this country, his house, which was only fourteen by twenty-two feet, consisted of only two rooms and his barn was fourteen by twenty-four feet. Mr. Christiansen now feeds about seventy head of hogs each year, and the raising of hogs he has found to be very profitable.

Mr. and Mrs. Chris H. Christiansen are member of the Danish Lutheran church, of which Mr. Christiansen is a trustee. Politically, he is a Republican and has served as school director in his locality.

Chris H. Christiansen is wholly worthy of the confidence and esteem of the neighborhood where he lives. Mr. Christiansen enjoys this esteem and today he is honored and respected in the community where he has lived so long and where the people have had an opportunity to know what manner of man he is.

ALBERT H. JORGENSEN.

One of the best-known Danish families living in Audubon county, Iowa, is that of the Jorgensens. The family is especially well-known in this county, because of the prominence which the various members have attained, and on account of their success in farming and the interest which the various members have taken in the public affairs of the county. By skillful and careful management of their personal affairs, they have been able to outstrip many of the less active and less able citizens who have come to this county from Denmark and from other lands. Albert H. Jorgensen, a farmer of Sharon township, is one of the best known representatives of the Jorgensen family in this county.

Mr. Jorgensen, who among other things owns three hundred and sixty acres of land in Sharon township, was born on August 5, 1866, in Denmark. His parents, Chris L. and Anna (Albertson) Jorgensen, were both natives of Denmark. Chris L. Jorgensen was a sailor by occupation, and followed

this practically all his life, not only in his native land, but in this country. In 1872 he came to America and after locating in Chicago, Illinois, sailed on Lake Michigan for three years. Seized with a desire to visit his home people, he returned to Denmark to his family and lived in his native land the remainder of his life. Early in life he had served in the Danish-German War of 1848. He died in July, 1913, ripe in years, honored and respected by the host of people who had known him in his active life. He was the father of six children, five of whom are now living, Johannah being deceased. The others are, George L., Carrie, Albert H., Sophia and Anna.

Albert H. Jorgensen received a good education in the Danish schools before coming to this country. He was only sixteen years old when he arrived in America in 1882, and immediately after coming here located in Audubon county, where he worked as a farm hand for four years. In the meantime, he had saved considerable money from his earnings, and was able to buy forty acres of land, for which he paid fourteen dollars an acre. This small tract of land was located in Sharon township, and it is the same farm upon which Mr. Jorgensen now lives. He has been engaged in general farming all his life, and as he has prospered he has been able to add to his farming holdings from time to time. Usually he raises a hundred and fifty acres of corn, which yields an average of not less than fifty bushels to the acre; he also raises about seventy-five acres of small grain and forty acres of hay every year. Mr. Jorgensen is an enthusiastic believer in the virtues of alfalfa as a forage crop, and has twenty acres sown to that crop. Practically all of his grain and his hay, especially the alfalfa, he feeds to hogs and cattle. However, he is not able to raise enough grain, and generally buys three to five thousand bushels of corn every year in addition to what he raises. He feeds about two hundred head of hogs and seventy-five head of cattle, and only raises thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle, and Duroc-Jersey hogs. The Jorgensen farm, upon which there has been invested more than fifteen thousand dollars in improvements, is believed to be the best in Sharon township; it is equipped with two silos, which have a tonnage of three hundred tons. Mr. Jorgensen was one of the promoters and served as vice-president for three years of the Atlantic & Northern Railway Company.

On November 2, 1888, six years after coming to America, Albert H. Jorgensen was married to Maren K. Clausen, daughter of Claus C. and Christena (Madsen) Clausen, both natives of Denmark, where the former was a blacksmith and where he followed his occupation all his life; he is still living in his native land, but is now retired. He served in the Danish-

Prussian War of 1864, and has lived to rear a family of nine children, eight of whom are still living, two being in Audubon county, Christian F. Clausen and Mrs. Jorgensen.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert H. Jorgensen have been the parents of a large family of children. Of the ten children only one, Anna, the eighth-born, is married. She married Albert Jensen, and they have one child, Herluf. The other children are, Chris L., Clarence, Albert, Marcius, Mads, Jens, Nels, Anna, Christina and Bertha.

Albert H. Jorgensen is prominent in the affairs of the Danish Lutheran church, of which he was treasurer for a number of years, and also was trustee. Politically, he is an independent Republican.

Among the other enterprises in which Mr. Jorgensen is interested, has been his connection with the well-known stock breeders of Audubon, and Mr. Jorgensen himself makes a specialty of Belgian and Clyde horses, and his profit in this industry has been no inconsiderable factor in his success. Albert H. Jorgensen well deserves the high standard which he enjoys among the people of Audubon county. He has gone on from year to year, looking carefully after the details of his business, yet he has never neglected the larger interests of the public, and is regarded as a man of charitable habits and kindly disposition. It must be said in justice to the history of this section, that no man has had a larger part in its commercial and agricultural development than Albert H. Jorgensen.

IRA STETZEL.

Ira Stetzel, who is a well-known farmer of Cameron township, Audubon county, Iowa, where he owns eighty acres of land and is engaged in farming one hundred and sixty acres, was born on January 17, 1885, the son of George and Catherine (Albright) Stetzel. George Stetzel was born in Alsace, France, and his wife, who before her marriage was Catherine Albright, was born in Pennsylvania. The father was a miner in his native land, who came to America in 1860, and after arriving in this country located in Johnson county, Iowa, where he purchased a farm and farmed for twenty-six years, or until 1886, when he came to Audubon county.

After locating in Audubon county, George Stetzel purchased a farm in Douglas township, of three hundred and twenty acres, and engaged in general farming until his death, January 17, 1903. He was born, July 25,

1830, and therefore was almost seventy-three years old at the time of his death. George and Catherine (Albright) Stetzel had sixteen children born to them, and all are still living. They are as follow: Elizabeth, Lena, Anna, Henry, Barbara, Cassie, Daniel, Charles, Emma, Martha, G. Wesley, Sarah, Louis, Rosa, Ira, the subject of this sketch, and Ella.

Ira Stetzel, who received his education in the public schools of Audubon county, and who after leaving school farmed with his mother until he was of age, began farming for himself and since has been so engaged. Mr. Stetzel is accustomed to raise about sixty-five acres of corn and forty acres of small grain. He feeds some fifty head of hogs every year, and keeps only thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle on the farm. He has been very successful in mixed farming and is considered one of the enterprising young farmers of Cameron township. Mr. Stetzel has invested approximately five thousand dollars in various kinds of improvements upon his Cameron township farm.

Religiously, Mr. Stetzel belongs to the Evangelical association and is president of the Sunday school. Politically, he is identified with the Republican party.

Although Ira Stetzel has never married, and is still a comparatively young man, he has enjoyed unusual success in farming, largely because he devotes his undivided attention to his life's vocation. Mr. Stetzel is keenly interested in farming and his natural liking for his life's vocation has been no small factor in his success. Mr. Stetzel has many warm friends in Cameron township, where he is well known.

CHARLES BOEHME.

Charles Boehme, a prosperous farmer of Audubon township, Audubon county, Iowa, and the owner of two hundred acres of land in this township, was born on March 7, 1859, in Brandon City, Vermont. He is the son of William and Mary Ann Boehme, natives of Rems, Germany, and Lincolnshire, England, respectively.

William and Mary Ann Boehme came to the United States about 1858 and were married in Quebec, Canada, soon after landing in this country. Mrs. Mary Ann Boehme's mother having died, she came over to this country with her father, who took sick, died and was buried at sea, leaving her an orphan. She was the only child born to her parents. After their marriage, William and Mary Ann Boehme went to New York City,



where they remained a short time and then removed to Vermont, where they lived until 1866, when they moved to Washington county, Iowa. There William Boehme pre-empted eighty acres of land, paying one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre for it, and there they remained the remainder of their lives.

Charles Boehme lived at home until twenty-four years old, when he left home and worked at various occupations in different states. After his marriage, he and his wife located at Walnut, Iowa, where he rented land for three years. In the spring of 1889, they came to Audubon county and here he purchased eighty acres of land in section 14, of Greeley township. After living there for five years, he sold out and moved to Audubon township, where he rented land again for six more years. In September, 1900, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 12, of Audubon township, and here he now lives. He has since added forty acres to the original farm. Mr. Boehme has made many improvements upon the farm and now has a fertile and highly productive farm, well equipped with all of the modern conveniences and highly suitable to successful farming.

On February 18, 1877, Charles Boehme was married in Montezuma, Poweshiek county, to Alice Kness, who was born on September 20, 1851, in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Martin and Hannah (Morehead) Kness, who were natives of Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, and moved to Poweshiek county in 1865.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Boehme are the parents of seven children, five sons and two daughters, as follow: Otis W., born on May 7, 1878, married Jennie Baylor and has one child; Lowell B., was graduated from the pharmaceutical department of Drake University and now owns a store at Osceola, Iowa; Maud E., July 25, 1880, died on May 15, 1910, taught nine terms of school in Audubon township; Elmer, November 4, 1883, married Ethel Wheeler and has two children, Maud Evelyn and Carl Russell; Clyde, August 13, 1885, married Carrie Stephensen and has two children, Lois Elaine and Huriel Owen; Fred, August 21, 1888, married Susie Schwab and has two children, Thelma and Glen; Ray, June 17, 1891, married Dora J. Stephensen; Mabel I., December 31, 1894, attended the Western Normal College at Shenandoah, Iowa, and the Highland Park College at Des Moines and now teaches school in Audubon township.

Mr. Boehme is a Republican. He has served as township trustee for six years and has also served as justice of the peace in Audubon township. Mrs. Boehme is a member of the Baptist church and her daughter, Mabel I.,

is a member of the Christian church. Mr. Boehme is an adherent of the Methodist Episcopal church.

The Boehmes are highly respected citizens in this community and the family is popular socially in Audubon township. Charles Boehme is known as an enterprising and prosperous farmer and one who thoroughly understands the science of farming as it is interpreted and practiced today. He is a man of honorable and upright character and well liked in the community where he lives.

EDMUND H. STEERE.

One of the successful general farmers and stockmen of Lincoln township, Audubon county, is Edmund H. Steere, who has done well his part in the work of transforming the raw Iowa prairie into its present highly-productive condition. Mr. Steere came to this county penniless, and the fine farm he now owns is the result of his well-directed efforts in this community.

Edmund H. Steere was born on November 15, 1856, in Minnesota. He is a son of Russell A. and Alice J. Steere. He attended the public school for two years in Minnesota, five years in a public school in Michigan, and later, attended the old Oak Field high school of Audubon county, Iowa, for two years. Quitting school at the age of eighteen, he went to work on his father's farm, remaining with him three years, at the end of which time he rented a farm south of Gray for three years, eighty acres of which he later bought for twelve dollars an acre. In 1892, Mr. Steers bought another farm of eighty acres adjoining his home place, for which he paid thirty-three dollars an acre. In 1906, he bought forty acres in Cameron township, at a cost of seventy dollars an acre, and again, in 1911, he purchased an additional forty acres, paying one hundred and thirty dollars an acre. Mr. Steere has spent about seven thousand dollars in improvements on his home place, including two miles of tiling. His principal crops are corn and small grain, all of which is fed to his stock. The corn yields about fifty or sixty bushels to the acre, and the small grain about thirty-five bushels. Mr. Steere is a regular attendant of the Methodist church at Gray, and always votes the Republican ticket.

Russell A. Steere was a native of Ohio, and his wife a native of Jacksonville, Illinois. They were married in Minnesota, and lived on a farm in that state for twelve years. They owned one hundred and sixty

acres, which they sold, going from there to Michigan, where they bought a farm of eighty acres, on which they lived five years, and then went back to Minnesota. After remaining there about a year, they moved to the southern part of Audubon county, near Brayton, and bought a quarter section in Cameron township. They lived on this place fourteen years, where Russell A. Steere died in 1890, and Alice J. Steere died in 1910. To this couple were born six children, as follow: Edmund H., Ernest K., Lincoln R., Elanor, Alice and Herbert. Ernest died in Audubon county, in 1892. Lincoln is married and lives in Tennessee. Elanor is married and lives in Audubon county. Alice is also married, and lives in Audubon county. Herbert lives in Wyoming.

Edmund H. Steere was married, in 1887, to Mary Mulloy, daughter of Coote C. Mulloy. Mrs. Mary Steere's father died at Carrollton, Iowa, near Coon Rapids, in 1872, and her mother died at Broadwater, Nebraska, in 1911.

To Mr. and Mrs. Steere have been born three children, Hazel, Ernest and Alice. Hazel spent two years in the high school at Gray, and after two years in the Audubon high school was graduated with the class of 1911, standing at the head of the class and gaining a scholarship. She is now teaching school. Ernest spent two years at the Gray high school and was graduated from the Audubon high school after two years. He is now working at home on the farm. Alice is attending high school at Gray.

CHRIS CHRISTENSEN.

Among the many well-known farmers of Sharon township, Audubon county, Iowa, who have made a conspicuous success of agriculture, is Chris Christensen, the owner of two hundred and forty acres of splendid land. Mr. Christensen is one of the old-time residents of Audubon county, although he, himself, is scarcely past the prime of life.

Chris Christensen was born in Denmark, November 21, 1865, and is a son of J. C. and Mary Christensen, both of whom were natives of Denmark, who came to America in 1879. J. C. Christensen was a mason by trade and followed that occupation until he came to America. After arriving in this country he located in section 30, of Sharon township, Audubon county, Iowa, where he purchased about forty-six acres of land for three hundred and sixty-seven dollars and twenty-eight cents. Later, he increased his land holdings to one hundred and forty acres, and improved his farm

in many ways. He broke the raw prairie sod originally, which had never been previously plowed, and was engaged in general farming and stock raising until his death, February 22, 1910. Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Christensen were the parents of the following children, five of whom are now living: Peter, Carrie, Chris, Mrs. J. J. Andersen, Sena, Martin C., and Andrew. J. C. Christensen was a soldier in the War of 1864 before coming to this country. After having lived a useful life and a life which was devoted to the welfare of her husband and family, Mrs. J. C. Christensen, the mother of Chris Christensen, died in 1895.

Chris Christensen, after having completed his education in the schools of his native land, resumed his studies on coming to America, and attended school here for a short time. He worked out by the month until he reached the age of twenty-four years, and then located on an eighty-acre tract of land which he purchased in 1884. He broke the sod and improved his place in various ways, and has enjoyed altogether a good record as a farmer. Mr. Christensen paid ten dollars an acre for the first eighty-acre tract which he bought from the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway Company, and he has invested ten thousand dollars in improvements on the place, making it now one of the valuable farms of the township. He is accustomed to raising an average of sixty acres of corn and forty acres of small grain each year, and feeds all of the grain raised on the farm to live stock, and is able to produce every year sufficient grain to feed one hundred head of hogs and a carload of cattle for the markets. He always keeps a very high grade of live stock, and has been very successful in this branch of agriculture. Mr. Christensen has three barns on his farm, one, sixty by fifty-six; one, fifty-six by sixty, and the third, fifty-six by forty, and is fully equipped for scientific and successful farming.

Chris Christensen was married in 1893 to Anna Sorensen, the daughter of Peter C. and Johanna Sorensen, and to this union five children have been born, Guy, Gaylor, Leroy, Hazel and Johanna, all of whom are living at home with their parents.

Chris Christensen is an independent voter and has been for many years. In fact, he has never permanently identified himself with any political party, although taking an active interest in all matters of public welfare. Although the Christensen family attend church, they are not actively identified with any church organization.

Having only six dollars in cash when he purchased his first eighty acres of land, Mr. Christensen each year has saved something out of the profits of the farm, and today he is one of the substantial landholders of

Sharon township, and while he has applied himself industriously to his vocation, he has never neglected the larger duties of life, and is an honored citizen of the township where he lives.

ERIK P. SIMONSEN.

It requires great strength of manhood and rare courage to sever the ties that bind one to home and native land and to seek a fortune in a new country. Erik P. Simonsen, a well-known retired farmer of Sharon township, Audubon county, Iowa, and the owner of two hundred and twenty-seven acres of land in this township, came to America when twenty-eight years old, leaving behind him all that was near and dear and breaking all of the associations of childhood and youth. Mr. Simonsen was born on July 4, 1849, the son of Hans and Anna (Clausen) Simonsen, both of whom were natives of Denmark, where Hans Simonsen was a farmer, and where he lived all his life. Of their ten children, four are now living, but only two are living in this country.

Erik P. Simonsen received his education in his native land, and after leaving school worked as a farm hand until he came to America in 1877. Arriving in this country he located first at Bowmans Grove, Shelby county, Iowa, and remaining there for one year he then went to Cass county, and worked a year. After this he lived in Audubon county, and here he purchased a farm of sixty acres, for which he paid eight dollars an acre. Engaged in general farming, Mr. Simonsen prospered from year to year and, as new land was added, broke the sod and reduced the soil to an excellent state of cultivation. He was accustomed to feed about one hundred and fifty head of hogs every year, fifty head of cattle, and to raise ninety acres of corn. In 1913 his corn averaged sixty bushels to the acre, and in that year he also raised fifty acres of small grain, all of which was fed to hogs and cattle. Coming to America with only eight hundred dollars, Mr. Simonsen has been able to increase his wealth until he now owns two hundred and twenty-seven acres of fine farming land in Sharon township.

Shortly after his arrival in America, Mr. Simonsen was married to Carrie Albertsen, daughter of Knud Albertsen, and to this happy union nine children were born, as follow: Anna, Elena, Stena, Eugena, Hans, Alfred, Emma, Arthur and Amanda. Anna married Anders Jensen, and they are the parents of eight children, Elena, Dagmar, Astra, Gonda, Edna, Herluf,

Elenora and Erna. Elena married V. S. Jensen and to them were born five children, Halvor, Thorwald, Arthur, Ydun and Thelma. Stena married T. G. Jensen, and they are the parents of four children, Areling, Amanda, Eva and Thelma Viola. Eugena married Hjalmar Rasmussen and to them were born four children, Edel, Veta, Hilga and Eva. The remainder of Mr. Simonsen's family are unmarried and live at home. Mrs. Simonsen, who was born in Denmark, came to America in 1878, and was married to Mr. Simonsen a very short time after her arrival in America.

Mr. and Mrs. Erik P. Simonsen are members of the Danish Lutheran church, and Mr. Simonsen is a trustee in the church. Politically, he is identified with the Democratic party.

Erik P. Simonsen is a well-known citizen of Sharon township, and during the active and productive period of his career while he was engaged in farming he was considered one of the most skillful agriculturists in this section of the county. His success is evidenced by the large increase in personal and real property since coming to America. Mr. Simonsen is a highly-respected and honored citizen of Audubon county.

REV. HERMAN L. JENSEN.

The Rev. Herman L. Jensen, pastor of the Bethany Danish Evangelical church of Sharon township, Audubon county, Iowa, has been a citizen of this county some fifteen years, having come to America after being educated in the schools of his native land, and after working at the blacksmith trade for a period of nine years. He also served fourteen months in the Danish army before leaving his native country.

Born in Denmark, March 14, 1876, the son of Jens and Anna (Emmicksen) Jensen, both natives of Denmark, Rev. Herman L. Jensen has had an interesting career. His father was a laborer all his life and died in his native land, January 24, 1906; his mother is still living in Denmark. Of the fourteen children born to Jens and Anna Jensen, seven are now living, as follows: Mrs. Minnie Swanson, William F., Thorwald, Peter, Anna, Kristine, and the Rev. Herman L.

Herman L. Jensen, after coming to America, located in Lyon county, Iowa, where he worked on a farm for one year, and then as a blacksmith for two years. About 1903 he entered Dana College at Blair, Nebraska,

and after completing the course of instruction there, and at Trinity Seminary, was ordained at Elkhorn, Iowa, June 6, 1909, as a minister in the Danish Evangelical church. Coming to the Bethany church immediately after his ordination, he has remained here since that time. In the meantime he has started a mission in Guthrie county, Iowa, which was begun three years ago with three families, and which now includes a congregation of twenty-two families. The congregation is in a thriving condition and contemplates the erection of a large church.

Rev. H. L. Jensen was married on June 16, 1909, to Marie Juhl, the daughter of Peter and Anna Juhl, and to this union have been born two children, Victor Julius and Anna Elvera.

There is no calling and no vocation in which the opportunity for service is greater than that of the ministry, and the Rev. Herman L. Jensen has improved upon his opportunities, and with sincerity of purpose and the zeal of the devout Christian, has carried forward his work in this part of Iowa with consummate success. Although devoted primarily to spiritual matters, Mr. Jensen is a good citizen in the largest sense of the word and has always taken a keen interest in public affairs, but in political matters, he is an independent voter. He is popular with his congregation of the Bethany church and well equipped to become in time one of the foremost ministers of the state in his denomination.

WILLIAM J. LANCELOT.

William J. Lancelôt, the editor and publisher of the *Audubon County Journal*, has enjoyed a diverting and interesting career. He has been engaged in many enterprises, and the remarkable fact is that he has been conspicuously successful in everything to which he has turned his hand. The son of a well-known English sea captain, he has been a farmer, butcher, merchant, newspaper correspondent and, finally, the owner of a newspaper. The secret of Mr. Lancelot's success, perhaps, is the splendid education and training he received in his native land. Schooled in habits of industry and methodical, precise manners of doing work, Mr. Lancelot's career should serve as an example to young men of our day and generation, who are more or less inclined to be careless and indifferent to details.

William J. Lancelot, the editor and publisher of the *Audubon County Journal*, at Exira, Iowa, was born on December 4, 1849, in Falmouth, County

of Cornwall, England. He is the son of William H. and Isabelle H. (Truscott) Lancelot, and was second in a family of six children. William H. Lancelot, the father, was for many years a sea captain in command of a ship which sailed on the waters of the Atlantic ocean, and for many years he was in the government service with headquarters at Falmouth, England.

William J. Lancelot, the subject of this sketch, having been educated in a select school in his native land, emigrated to America when eighteen years old, and landed in New York City, eventually came west and settled in Clayton county, Iowa, where for a time he engaged in farming. He had served an apprenticeship as a butcher in his native land, and followed this business after coming to Iowa. In 1876 he removed to Cameron Center, Audubon county, and farmed there until 1885, when he engaged in the grocery business at Ross, Iowa, in partnership with Frank Gleason, of Audubon. After a time Mr. Lancelot sold out and in partnership with F. P. Rees purchased the stock of W. P. Johnson & Company, of Gray, Iowa. Mr. Lancelot and Mr. Rees established their business in 1886, and for many years were engaged in the mercantile business at Gray, under the firm name of Lancelot & Rees.

In the meantime Mr. Lancelot had served as the Audubon county correspondent of the *Des Moines Register*. In 1893 he sold out his interest in the store at Gray and subsequently purchased the *Audubon County Journal*.

On January 1, 1905, the Lancelots came into possession of the *Audubon County Journal*, when the subject of this sketch became its editor, and for ten years has maintained a strictly independent and progressive paper, with one of the best equipped offices in the state.

GEORGE EAGEN.

Born in Johnson county, this state, reared as a farmer and with a sufficient experience as a farmer in Nebraska to convince him that Audubon county, this state, in which he had previously lived for a time, was the best spot on earth for the farmer, George Eagen, one of the well-known and substantial farmers of Greeley township, this county, is content to remain here the remainder of his life, enjoying the benefits and comforts of the fine home which he has created in Greeley township.

George Eagen was born on a farm in Johnson county, Iowa, May 22, 1861, the son of Thomas and Catherine (McTyge) Eagen, both of whom



GEORGE EAGEN AND FAMILY

were born in Ireland, the former a native of County Cork and the latter of County Mayo. Thomas Eagen came to America as a lad and for a time lived in New Jersey, where he worked on a farm. He married Catherine McTyge in that state, and in 1860 came to Iowa, settling in Johnson county, where he bought land. Selling out his holdings there in 1880, he moved to Shelby county, and in 1883 to Audubon county, but only remained here a year, not buying any land, moving on to Holt county, Nebraska, where he took a homestead claim, on which he lived for six years, at the end of which time he sold the claim and, in 1889, came back to Audubon county, where he bought eighty acres in section 10, of Greeley township, where he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring on April 7, 1906. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, John, George, Mrs. Catherine Kerwin, Thomas, James F., Mrs. Mary Campbell and William. James F. and Mrs. Campbell are residents of this county.

George Eagen lived at home until 1884, in which year he went to Holt county, Nebraska, and entered a homestead, which he sold in 1890 and returned to Audubon county, where he rented land until 1898, at which time he bought eighty acres in section 2, of Greeley township, which he improved, and where he since has made his home. In 1907 he replaced his original dwelling house with a fine eight-room house and has also built a good barn, garage and other substantial farm buildings.

On February 3, 1892, George Eagen was united in marriage to Cordelia Parrott, who was born in Dubuque county, Iowa, December 31, 1868, the daughter of Perry and Barbara A. (Duel) Parrott, natives of Licking county, Ohio, who came to Audubon county in 1871 and homesteaded the land on which the county fair ground is now located, but were deprived of ownership through legal proceedings instituted by the railroad company, whereupon they bought land in Hamlin township, where they reared a family of eleven children: Mrs. Lizzie Sales, Samuel, Thomas E., Mrs. Ella Hensley, Cordelia E., John L., Arthur L. (deceased), Mrs. Flora Frederick, Mrs. Bertha Campbell, Horace A. and Mrs. Mamie Christensen, four of whom are living in Audubon county, the sons and Mrs. Eagen.

To George and Cordelia E. (Parrott) Eagen have been born three children: Eunice, born on November 8, 1892, died on January 10, 1893; Marguerite, March 28, 1894, who, on January 14, 1914, married August Dutler; and George, June 7, 1897. The Eagens have many friends in the community in which they reside and are held in the highest regard by all who know them.

CHRISTEN T. CLAUSEN.

Christen T. Clausen, who owns two hundred acres of highly productive land in Sharon township, is another native-born son of the little kingdom of Denmark, who has established a comfortable home and acquired a considerable fortune since coming to America. Mr. Clausen is one of the well-known citizens of Audubon county, especially well-known as a successful farmer and business man. During his career as a farmer, he has kept closely in touch with all of the modern phases of farm development and he employs only the very best methods in carrying on agricultural work.

Christen T. Clausen, a resident of Sharon township, Audubon county, Iowa, was born on March 18, 1872, in Denmark, and is the son of Claus and Christena (Madsen) Clausen, both of whom were natives of Denmark. The father, a blacksmith by occupation, followed this trade during all of the active years of his life, but is now living retired in his native land. He served in the Danish-Prussian War of 1864 and has a splendid military record, as a result of his service during the entire period of that war. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, eight of whom are still living. Only two, Christen T., the subject of this sketch, and Mrs. Albert H. Jorgensen, are living in Audubon county.

Christen T. Clausen enjoyed the advantages of a good education in the schools of his native land and after leaving school, worked for one year in a brick-yard. However, he was not able to save very much money and when he was coming to America in 1888, at the age of sixteen years, he was compelled to borrow the money with which to buy his ticket to this country. After arriving in America, he came direct to Kimballton, Iowa, and worked as a farm hand for about ten years, during the first year, receiving eight dollars a month for his services.

About 1898 Mr. Clausen was married and then purchased eighty acres of land in partnership with Albert H. Jorgensen, his brother-in-law. Later, he bought out Mr. Jorgensen and he now owns two hundred acres of well-improved land, all in a high state of cultivation. Mr. Clausen raises eighty acres of corn, which averages fifty bushels to the acre and thirty-five acres of small grain. The rest of his farm is sown in alfalfa and he is one of the most enthusiastic advocates of alfalfa as forage crop, and as a substitute for clover, to be found in Audubon county. He feeds all of his grain to his hogs and cattle. Mr. Clausen raises eighty head of hogs every year and at least a carload of cattle. He has invested about sixty-five hundred

dollars in various kinds of improvements upon the place, such as outbuildings, fences, drains and roads. He has a cattle barn on the farm, fifty by fifty feet, and horse and cattle barn combined, thirty-six by seventy-six feet.

Christen T. Clausen was married in 1898 to Eynsena Caspersen, the daughter of Peter Caspersen. Mr. and Mrs. Clausen are the parents of nine children, all of whom are unmarried and all of whom live at home. They are: Casper, Anna, Solvyg, Tomena, Christena, Welberg, Amelia, Mads, and Marthene.

Although a Republican in politics and identified with the party which is generally dominant in Audubon county, Mr. Clausen has never taken an active interest in political affairs and has never been a candidate for office, devoting himself almost exclusively to farming. The Clausen family are all members of the Danish Lutheran church and are prominent in the affairs of the local congregation.

Christen T. Clausen is regarded as one of the best citizens of Audubon county. He is well-informed, intelligent, affable in manners and agreeable by disposition and therefore, he is popular in the neighborhood where he lives and, of course, is well acquainted throughout Audubon county.

JAMES CHANNON.

James Channon, a well-known farmer of Audubon county, now living retired at Exira, who owns one hundred and sixty acres of land in Greeley township, was born on November 20, 1849, in Sidmouth, Devonshire, England, the son of William and Sarah (Quick) Channon, both natives of Devonshire.

William Channon, a carpenter by trade, followed this occupation until he came to America in 1852, and after arriving in this country, he located at Corydon, Iowa, and worked in a saw-mill and at the carpenter's trade in Polk county, helping to build many log cabins in that county. When the Civil War broke out, he enlisted as a soldier in behalf of the Union and was killed in the battle of Shiloh. He was the father of ten children, three of whom came to Iowa: William, who lives at Des Moines, Iowa; Anna, who married George Phippen, and James, the subject of this sketch.

On account of his father's death and the responsibility of caring for his mother, James Channon was unable to attend school during his youth. His mother never came to America; but died in Devonshire, England. When

eighteen years old, James came to America and located at Des Moines, where he worked as a farm hand for a short time. Eventually, he took a place with the Northern Pacific Railroad Company and helped to build the railroad. Working for this company a short time, he located at Fort Dodge, Iowa, where he worked as a coal miner for seven years and then located near Des Moines, Iowa, on a farm with his brother. After working on the farm for five years, he went to Colorado, where he remained for four years, and then returned to Polk county. There, after his marriage, he farmed for one year and then he and his wife came to Anita on the Rock Island railroad. He walked to Exira, and there operated a farm, which he cultivated for sixteen years; subsequently, he purchased two hundred acres and farmed it until his retirement and removal to Exira in 1914.

On February 25, 1883, James Channon was married to Mary E. Young, the daughter of John and Matilda (Shellhart) Young. Four children, Nora, Bertha, George and Ralph, have been born to this marriage. Nora married Charles Fauss and they are the parents of three children, Lester, Wesley and Helen; Bertha is the wife of John Jacobson and has two children, James Carl and Thelma; George died in 1907; Ralph married Lena Jensen, and lives on the home place.

Mrs. Channon was born in Polk county, Iowa, and her parents were natives of Elkhart county, Indiana. The father grew to manhood in Elkhart county, but on reaching maturity, came to Polk county, Iowa and was one of the first settlers, helping to build one of the first houses in Des Moines. He lived in Polk county until his death.

The mother of Mrs. Channon, who before her marriage, was Matilda Shellhart, was born near Elkhart, Indiana, December 4, 1841, and died at her home near Ankeny, Iowa, January 27, 1907, at the age of eighty-five years, one month and twenty-three days. She came to Polk county with her parents when six years of age, at which time they settled three miles and a half southwest of Ankeny. Except for two years spent in Guthrie county, her entire life after this period was spent in Polk county. John Young and Matilda Shellhart were married on November 21, 1858, and began house-keeping on a farm less than one mile from her home at the time of her death. They labored together patiently, hand in hand, faithful and true to each other. Mrs. Young was well acquainted with pioneer life and did her part in making the home beautiful and attractive. Patiently and lovingly she reared her family of little ones and with the delight of a fond mother, she shared their joys and sorrows as they grew up together to manhood and womanhood. To John and Matilda Young were born eight children: Mar-

tha Ellen, who died when two years old; Mary E., who married Mr. Channon; Mrs. Eliza Jane Duenzing, who lives in Texas; Mrs. Bertha Matilda Rhodes, of Chelsea, Idaho; Sarah Ann, who is the wife of Frank Porter; Walter W., who married Minnie Coby; John L., who married Sarah Good, and George B.

Mr. and Mrs. James Channon are members of the Christian church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, the Free and Accepted Masons and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Politically, he is a Republican, and has held the office of school director.

Not only did Mr. Channon enjoy a remarkable success as a farmer in this county, but his career is also valuable to the community as a neighbor and citizen. He is a man who has always believed in law enforcement and who has always given the weight of his influence to the support of our democratic institutions. His children, who have been reared to honorable and useful lives, are a credit to their parents and to the various communities where they live.

HENRY J. HOOGENAKKER.

The personal biography of a successful newspaper man is always interesting. The average newspaper man or editor is generally a self-made individual who began as "printer's devil" and rose to the rank of manager and owner. The newspaper man of today wields a more powerful influence over the minds and hearts of the people through the medium of his publication than any other single factor in the arrangement of things as they are and must be in this great and free Republic. The press rights our wrongs and redresses our grievances and its tremendous influence shapes and forces the better legislation which the people are continually demanding. Its power is tremendous when one considers that the recent tariff and monetary legislation was brought about by the people expressing their sentiment through the columns of the newspapers. The men at the head of the newspapers of today are, as a rule, well educated and thoroughly practical men of affairs. The old time "hit and miss" editor who led a precarious sort of existence, while he was a lovable character in many ways, has given way to the younger men of business ability who have placed the publishing of the newspapers upon a firmer financial basis. The newspaper man is a member of a distinct profession; his newspaper is an established business institution in which the community takes a just and abiding pride. The success of a local newspaper

generally reflects the standing and prosperity of the community in which it is published. Audubon county is fortunate in having some excellent newspapers published within its borders and one of the most successful is the *Audubon Republican*, which is edited and managed by a wide-awake editor whose ability is unquestioned and who rose from the ranks of the printers to become a proprietor since early manhood. Henry J. Hoogenakker is one of the able young newspaper men of western Iowa and has had a striking and successful career along the lines of his chosen profession.

Henry J. Hoogenakker was born on August 10, 1879, in Pella, Iowa, son of Arie and Harriet (Brucklander) Hoogenakker, natives of Holland. Arie Hoogenakker was born in 1840 and crossed the ocean when fourteen years of age in 1854. He was a painter by trade and located at Pella, Iowa. Here he was married on August 31, 1865, and reared his family. The Hollanders have customarily settled in colonies in America and Mr. Hoogenakker formed one of a large colony of immigrants who settled in the vicinity of Pella. This colony came across the country by rail as far as Keokuk and then traveled by wagon and afoot one hundred and twenty-five miles to Pella. Arie Hoogenakker and wife still reside in Pella and have reared a family of ten children. Arie was one of eight children. Henry J., received his education in the Pella public schools, and when still a youth, entered the office of the *Pella Advertiser* to learn the printer's trade. He remained in this office for a period of three years. He then spent one and one-half years at Knoxville, Iowa. Following this employment he worked at his trade in various printing offices at Des Moines until 1898. He then spent one year in the office of the *Pella Chronicle*. He started a job printing office in Colfax, Iowa, and remained there three years, in the meantime buying out the *Colfax Tribune*. For four years thereafter he was editor of the *Review* at Donnellson, Iowa. He was then owner of the *Clarion*, at Richland, Iowa, for four years. He purchased the *Audubon Republican* on October 1, 1911. Since taking charge of the newspaper he has made a financial success of the enterprise and has built up the circulation to the large number of twenty-six hundred subscribers. The office is well equipped with modern linotype and the latest machinery and does excellent printing.

H. J. Hoogenakker was married on January 17, 1900, to Marie Keeler, of Colfax. They have one child, Harriet, born on May 19, 1913. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He is also an Odd Fellow and Modern Woodman.

The political career of this successful and enterprising publisher has been worthy of note and shows another phase of a well-rounded character

and pronounced capabilities. He is allied with the Republican party, and has taken an active and influential part in the politics of his state. While editor of the *Richland Clarion*, he served the city as mayor.

In 1908 Mr. Hoogenakker was the Republican candidate for representative from Keokuk county and two years later was urged to become the nominee without opposition for state senator. He has attended every state convention of his party as a delegate since 1898. He has resided in the first, sixth, seventh and ninth congressional districts during the course of his newspaper career and is widely and favorably known in those districts. At the present time, Mr. Hoogenakker occupies the honored position as president of the Western Iowa Editorial Association. He is a genial, energetic character who allows nothing to stand in the way of making a success of all of his undertakings and is possessed of those attributes which make for good citizenship. He is eminently fitted by nature and by training for his profession and the appearance of his publication justifies the statement that he is a talented and capable editor.

J. L. JORGENSEN.

The son of a Danish fisherman who has long since passed to the great beyond, J. L. Jorgensen, who came to America about twenty-seven years ago, and who has become the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of fine farming land in Sharon township, was born on July 3, 1871, in Denmark. His parents, Albert and Meta Jorgensen, were both natives of Denmark, and lived there until their death. For many years Albert Jorgensen was a farm hand and a laborer in a brick-yard, but after his marriage he became a fisherman and followed that occupation until his death in 1883. His wife, the mother of J. L. Jorgensen, died in 1911, after rearing three children, Peter, Chris and J. L.

J. L. Jorgensen received his education in the Danish schools, and after leaving school worked as a farm hand and cattle herder until he came to America.

Coming to this country in 1888, Mr. Jorgensen located at Kimballton, Iowa, and worked as a farm hand in the vicinity of this town for about seven years. He then purchased forty acres of land in Sharon township, Audubon county, and it is upon this farm that he is now living. Mr. Jorgensen paid twenty-eight dollars an acre for it, but the increase in value of farm

land has made his property very much more valuable than it was at the time he purchased it. In the meantime he has also added an additional eighty acres, and in his farm he has invested approximately five thousand dollars in buildings, fences and ditches. When Mr. Jorgensen came to America he had very little money and it must be regarded as a tribute to his energy, his economy and his good management that he has been able to save from his earnings sufficient money to own one hundred and twenty acres of productive land.

J. L. Jorgensen was married in 1906, to Nelsene Jorgensen, daughter of Jeppe Mortensen. Two children have been born to this marriage, Albert Chris, who is at home with his parents and George L., deceased.

Mr. Jorgensen feeds about seventy-five head of hogs every year, and raises twenty acres of corn which averages fifty bushels to the acre. He has found mixed farming to be very profitable.

The Jorgensens are members of the Danish Lutheran church, in which Mr. Jorgensen has been a trustee for some four years. He is an independent Republican in politics, and a man who uses his vote wisely, always in the best interest of local, state and national government. Mr. Jorgensen is an intelligent and well informed citizen and recognizes the responsibility which suffrage entails. His home, his family and his farm are his chief interests. He is popular in the community where he lives and is well known in Sharon township.

ALBERT FREDERICK.

Albert Frederick is widely known in Audubon county, Iowa, and is one of the honored citizens of Greeley township. He has led a life of strenuous activity in agricultural affairs. His well-directed efforts in the practical affairs of life, his capable management of his business interests and his sound judgment have brought to him an exceptional measure of prosperity which demonstrates what may be accomplished by a man of energy and ambition, who is not afraid to work and who has the ambition to continue his labors in the face of disaster and discouragement. In all the relations of life, Albert Frederick has commanded the confidence and respect of those with whom he has been brought into contact. A biographical history of this locality would not be complete without a record of his career.

Albert Frederick was born on August 28, 1859, in Howard county, Maryland. He is the son of Jacob and Mary M. (Shipley) Frederick, who



ALBERT FREDERICK

were also natives of Howard county, Maryland. Jacob Frederick came to Audubon county, Iowa, in 1878. In his younger days, he was a blacksmith and later he took up the miller's trade. During the Civil War he acted as a spy for the Union army. He was also quite a large property owner in Baltimore, but was forced to sell out and move to Ohio shortly before the close of the war. He lived in Ohio only about eighteen months, where he conducted a butcher shop. When he came to Illinois in 1866, he purchased a farm and followed farming the remainder of his life.

The Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad was not yet built when he came to Audubon county. He first bought a homestead three miles east of Audubon but later sold that and bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in Greeley township from the Rock Island Railroad Company, paying seven dollars an acre for one eighty-acre tract, and twelve dollars an acre for the other tract. He was a member of the Christian church as was his wife also, although in her younger days she had been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. They were the parents of seven children, of whom Albert, the subject of this sketch, was the third child.

Albert Frederick received a common-school education and lived at home until he was twenty years of age, when he commenced working out by the month, working two years. He received fifteen dollars a month for nine months during the year and during the other three months, worked for his board. In January, 1881, Mr. Frederick purchased eighty acres of land in Greeley township. In the fall of the same year he purchased eighty acres more, giving the same price for his land that his father had paid. The "Ridge" road, which runs through the land, was formerly an Indian trail and later used as a stage and mail route from Exira to Penora, Iowa.

On May 10, 1885, Albert Frederick was married in Greeley township, Audubon county, to Nellie M. Knox, of Greeley township. She was born in Exira township, Audubon county, and is the daughter of Xerxes and Nancy (Smith) Knox, natives of Ohio and Pennsylvania, respectively. Her father was a soldier in the Civil War, having enlisted in Company G, Third Regiment Iowa Volunteer Cavalry. He was taken prisoner and was confined in the great Confederate prison in Arkansas. He was married twice, his first marriage occurring before the war, and the second just after the war.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Frederick have nine children, five sons and four daughters, namely: Clara B., born on May 4, 1886, married Ira Johnson, of Wessington Springs, South Dakota, and has two children, Ruth and

Laverne and Thelma Arlene; Iva A., December 29, 1887, married Fred Brau, of Greeley township, and has three children, Florence E., Bernice B. and Milan H.; Maud A., July 24, 1891, married George Schwab, of Greeley township, and has three children, Lola M., Harold F. and Howard M.; Ruth E., November 20, 1894; Lee, December 10, 1896; Lloyd L., April 22, 1899; Lyman R., January 24, 1902, Earl K., March 8, 1905; and Marvin Dale, September 5, 1910.

Mr. Frederick makes a specialty of raising Hereford cattle most of which are registered. He feeds about two carloads of cattle and two carloads of hogs each year. He has added to his original farm and now owns three hundred and sixty acres of land in Greeley township. He is the second largest landholder in the township. Mr. Frederick also owns one hundred and sixty acres of land in Jerauld county, South Dakota. He is a stockholder in the C. Haffen Lumber Company, of Council Bluffs. It is an interesting fact that Mr. Frederick's father helped to lay out the roads in Greeley township.

Mr. Frederick is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Modern Brotherhood of America and the National Reserve. Mr. and Mrs. Frederick are members of the Order of the Eastern Star. In politics, Mr. Frederick is a Democrat. He has served as township clerk for eight years, secretary of the school board for fourteen years and justice of the peace. The family are members of the Congregational church at Exira.

CHRISTIAN J. H. WOLF.

To have begun life on a rented farm and with little or no financial assistance, and within a comparatively short time to have become the proud possessor of a farm of six hundred and forty acres of fertile land is no small achievement. Yet Christian Wolf, the subject of this sketch, has done this very thing. Mr. Wolf raises from one to two hundred acres of corn every year, and has almost an equal amount of land in small grain. He feeds from two hundred to three hundred head of hogs every year, and ships off his place three to four carloads of cattle.

Christian J. H. Wolf, the proprietor of six hundred and forty acres of rich farming land in Exira township, is a native of Schleswig, Germany,

having been born there on September 23, 1866. He is the son of Peter and Margaret (Peterson) Wolf, both natives of Schleswig, Germany. The former was a farmer and stock buyer in Germany and followed that business until he came to America in 1883, and located west of Exira. Here he purchased a farm of ninety-two acres at seventeen dollars an acre. He farmed this for several years, and increased his holdings until he owned two hundred and seventy-four acres of land. During all this period he was engaged in general farming. In 1902 he moved to Exira and retired. He is now living in Exira. Peter Wolf served throughout the Danish-German War, and also served in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. Peter Wolf was born on January 1, 1833. His wife, who before her marriage was Margaret Peterson, was born on February 3, 1835. She died on March 22, 1911. Peter Wolf and wife had eight children as follow: Matilda, Jens P., Christian, Christina, Welberg, Margaret, Mary and Nickolena.

Christian J. H. Wolf received his education principally in Schleswig, Germany. After coming to this country he attended school a short time in Audubon county. Subsequently he worked by the month until he was twenty-one years of age. During this period he worked for his father for one year, and then worked out for himself. He rented a farm for three years, and then purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Exira township, Audubon county. Mr. Wolf has now six hundred and forty acres. He has always been able to make a substantial profit on hogs and cattle. Mr. Wolf moved to the place where he now lives in 1912. He has invested approximately ten thousand dollars in improving this farm.

Christian J. H. Wolf was married on March 6, 1890, to Emma Jasper-son, daughter of Nels and Laura (Nelson) Jaspersen. To Mr. and Mrs. Wolf have been born six children, Clarence, Arley, Elmer, Harold, Laura and Edna. All of these children are unmarried. Laura died at the age of eleven months. Mrs. Wolf was born in Pottawattamie county, Iowa. Her parents were both natives of Denmark. Her father was a farmer. After coming to America he located near Newton, Iowa, and finally moved to Pottawattamie county. He lived there until his death in 1874. He and his wife had three children, Emma, Carrie and Louise. Louise died when very young.

Mr. and Mrs. Christian J. H. Wolf are members of the Christian church. Mr. Wolf is a member of the Masonic lodge at Exira, and is a Knights Templar of Audubon commandery. He is also a member of the Eastern Star, at Exira. Mr. Wolf is a Republican.

JORGEN JORGENSEN.

Jorgen Jorgensen, a well-known farmer of Sharon township, Audubon county, Iowa, who owns two hundred and forty acres of land in this township, is a native-born citizen of Denmark, but an adopted and patriotic citizen of this country. Mr. Jorgensen was born on September 24, 1867, the son of Jorgen P. and Lena C. Jorgensen, both natives of Denmark, where his father was a farmer, and where he is still living. Jorgen P. and Lena C. Jorgensen had four children, of whom Jorgen, the subject of this sketch, is the eldest; the others are, Chris A., Iver and Erick.

Jorgen Jorgensen received his education in the schools of his native land, and after finishing the prescribed course in the Danish schools, engaged in the occupation of a farmer, which he followed until 1889, when he came to America. Shortly after coming to this country he located in Sharon township, Audubon county, Iowa, and here he worked as a farm hand until 1894, a period of four years. In the latter year Mr. Jorgensen purchased eighty acres of land, which he sold and in 1908 bought the farm where he now lives. He has improved this farm in many ways, and increased his farm holdings until he now owns two hundred and forty acres of land. Mr. Jorgensen raises ninety acres of corn, which yields an average of fifty bushels to the acre, and fifty acres of small grain, most of which he feeds to his hogs and cattle. He raises a hundred head of hogs every year, and many head of cattle. Mr. Jorgensen has found it highly profitable to follow mixed farming, and each year has been able to show a considerable profit from the farm operations. This profit which Mr. Jorgensen has saved in the form of money he has reinvested in improvements, which now amount to upwards of five thousand dollars, and also in additional land which he has purchased from time to time.

Jorgen Jorgensen was married in 1892 to Anna Jorgensen, the daughter of Chris L. and Anna (Albertsen) Jorgensen, both natives of Denmark. The former was a sailor during his entire life. In 1872 he came to America, and after locating in Chicago sailed on Lake Michigan for three years, after which he then returned to Denmark to his family, and lived there the remainder of his life. He died in July 1913, a veteran of the Danish-German War of 1848. Besides Mrs. Jorgen Jorgensen, his children were, George L., Carrie, Albert, Anna, Sophia, and Johannah, deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Jorgen Jorgensen have had ten children, as follow: Jorgen P., Lena C., Chris L., Anna S., Johannah K., Karius Alfred.

Alvilda, Carl, Thyra and Eavald, all of whom are unmarried and live at home with their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Jorgen Jorgensen are members of the Danish Lutheran church. Mr. Jorgensen is an independent voter and is the present school director in his locality.

A well-known citizen of Sharon township, Jorgen Jorgensen is well entitled to the esteem and confidence he enjoys, which have been freely bestowed upon him by his neighbors and by the host of friends he has made in Audubon county. He is a worthy citizen of the great Hawkeye state.

HANS A. BLADT.

Among the prosperous, enterprising and skillful farmers of Sharon township, Audubon county, Iowa, is Hans A. Bladt, the owner of three hundred and seventy-five acres of land in Sharon township, who was born on May 8, 1878, in Schleswig, Germany, and who died a son of Jacob and Anna Margaret Bladt, natives of Denmark and of Germany, respectively. After their marriage in Germany, where Jacob Bladt, who was a laborer, came with his wife to America in 1903, and located in Audubon county. They are now living in Sharon township, having retired from active work. Their children were, Jacob, Fred, Hans A., Peter, Rasmus, Nels, Marie and John.

Hans A. Bladt received his education both in the schools of Germany and Denmark, and after leaving school came to America, locating in Sharon township, Audubon county, Iowa, where for five years he worked as a farm hand. Subsequently, he rented a farm of eighty acres for a number of years, and then purchased one hundred and sixty acres in this township. He is now the owner of three hundred and seventy-five acres, all in a high state of cultivation and he also carries on mixed farming. Mr. Bladt feeds about one and one-half carloads of cattle every year and, approximately, one hundred and fifty head of hogs. He keeps thorough-bred Shorthorn cattle, and raises about one hundred and fifty acres of corn, which averages fifty bushels to the acre and eighty acres of small grain, as well as ten acres of alfalfa, and fifty acres of hay, and altogether Mr. Bladt has invested more than eight thousand dollars on his farm. He has improved the soil by careful fertilization, drained the land and built hundreds of rods of the best fences.

In 1898 Hans A. Bladt was married to Carrie Olesen, the daughter of Ole Olesen, and to this union four children have been born, Marie, Anna, Ole and Emma. Mrs. Bladt was born in Illinois, although her parents were natives of Denmark, who came to this country shortly after their marriage and located in that state. Later, they moved to Iowa, locating in Audubon county, where her father farmed until his death. Her mother is still living on the old home place in this township. Mrs. Bladt is one of two children born to her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Hans Bladt are faithful and earnest members of the Danish Lutheran church, in which they are actively interested, and to the support of which they are liberal contributors. Politically, Mr. Bladt is a Republican, and he is a public-spirited, enterprising and genial man, a progressive citizen and is well entitled to the high regard of his neighbors. Year by year he has gone on performing his day's duties with the zest of a man who is earnest in his work, and as a toiler who has been carefully trained in husbandry, and he well deserves the admiration which is accorded him by the people of his neighborhood and county.

H. P. LAURITZEN.

H. P. Lauritzen, a very successful farmer and stockman of Sharon township, Audubon county, Iowa, was born on March 23, 1872, in Schleswig, Germany, the son of Claus and Anna (Mortensen) Lauritzen, the former of whom was born in December, 1832, and passed away on August 17, 1904, and the latter, born on October 3, 1839, passed away on July 11, 1912.

Claus Lauritzen and his wife came to America from Denmark, where he was a farmer, in 1881, and located in Shelby county, Iowa, where they purchased seventy-three acres of land at fifteen dollars an acre. After improving the place in various ways, especially by the erection of a small house, fourteen by fourteen feet, and farming in that county until 1899, they removed to Audubon county, and located in Sharon township, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land. This farm he improved in various ways and here he lived until his death in 1904. They had six children, H. P., N. P., Claudie, Sine, Mary and Hannah.

H. P. Lauritzen, who was educated in Germany and in Shelby county,

Iowa, after leaving school took up farming with his father, and remained with him on the home farm until thirty-one years of age.

In 1904 Mr. Lauritzen was married, at the age of thirty-one, and after his marriage purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land and began farming for himself. The farm was greatly improved under his ownership and management, and in 1910 he purchased the place upon which he now lives, consisting of three hundred and twenty acres. Here Mr. Lauritzen has invested about two thousand dollars in improvements. He raised approximately one hundred and twenty acres of corn every year, which yields an average of fifty bushels to the acre; fifty acres of small grain, sixty-five acres of hay, and feeds all these products to hogs and cattle. Mr. Lauritzen finds it necessary, in order to feed two hundred and twenty-five head of hogs and six carloads of cattle, to purchase in addition to what he raises from four to five thousand bushels of corn every year. He has been very successful in farming and is considered one of the most prosperous farmers in this section.

H. P. Lauritzen was married on January 27, 1904, to Cecelia Arp, daughter of Joachim and Margaret (Nelson) Arp. To this happy union four children have been born, as follow: Anna, Clarence, Edward and Florence. Mrs. Lauritzen is a native of Shelby county, Iowa, a daughter of native-born German parents, her father having been a farmer, who came to America unmarried, and who settled in Shelby county, Iowa, where he purchased a farm and farmed until his death, January 25, 1891. His wife, born on January 10, 1858, is still living at Elkhorn, Iowa. They had four children, Mrs. Lauritzen, Charles, Fred and Elvena.

Mr. and Mrs. Lauritzen are members of the Lutheran church, in which both take a prominent part. A Republican in politics, H. P. Lauritzen formerly served as township trustee of Sharon township and discharged the duties of this office to the satisfaction of the people of the township.

Not only is Mr. Lauritzen one of the largest farmers in this community, and one who maintains on his farm a barn large enough for one hundred and twenty head of cattle, besides other buildings for hogs and other live stock, but he is considered very successful in the cultivation of corn and other grains and cereals. He has always taken a keen interest in the educational development of Audubon county, and believes strongly in the very best educational facilities for his children and the children of his neighbors. Upon matters affecting the public welfare Mr. Lauritzen's counsel and advice are freely sought, and his assistance in all worthy movements can always be depended upon. He is popular in the neighborhood where he lives.

HON. HENRY FRANKLIN ANDREWS.

Henry Franklin Andrews, son of Jacob and Martha Phinney (Hamblen) Andrews, was born at Lovell, Maine, Thursday, June 27, 1844. He was married at Atlantic, Iowa, by the Rev. M. Hughes, February 27, 1871, to Jennie Maria, daughter of William Canfield and Ruth Harriet (Thayer) Norton, of Oakfield, Iowa. Jennie Maria Norton was born in Springfield township, Allen county, Indiana, June 21, 1850. She returned with her parents to Springwater, New York, from whence they had moved to Indiana, and came with her parents to Oakfield, Iowa, in 1856. Before marriage she had become a successful school teacher in Audubon county. They separated in 1898, and were divorced December 13, 1902. Both unmarried 1915. She lives with her children near Shoshone, Wyoming. He is a lawyer and genealogist.

Henry Franklin Andrews lived with his parents in Lovell, Stoneham, Portland, and again in Lovell, Maine, except two summers in Naples, Maine, until 1862. He was reared a farmer and lumberman. He attended the public school up to and including the winter of 1861, but was employed at work for his father in the summer seasons after he was twelve years old.

On July 18, 1862, Henry Franklin Andrews enlisted as a private in Company D, Sixteenth Regiment Volunteer Infantry, joined his company at Augusta, Maine, and was mustered into the United States service on August 14, 1862. The regiment went by rail on August 19, via Portland and Boston to Fall River, Massachusetts, thence by the steamer "Bay State" to Jersey City, arriving there August 20, and at Philadelphia the following day, and was entertained there with refreshments at the "Cooper Shop"; thence again by rail via Baltimore and arrived at Washington on August 22. The regiment marched down Pennsylvania Avenue and crossed Long Bridge into Virginia the next day and camped at Fort Tillinghast, near the Lee mansion on Arlington Heights, just across the Potomac from the White House.

On September 2, Companies D and I were detailed to serve at Fort Corcoran, and the other companies to other forts in the vicinity. At Fort Tillinghast was heard the first sounds of war and real fighting while the battle was on at Chantilly. The "long roll" called them out there in the night for the first time in their long arduous service. On September 7 the regiment was consolidated and marched away on the Maryland campaign; and on September 9 it was assigned to Hartsuff's Brigade, composed of



H. G. Anderson

the following named regiments: Eleventh Pennsylvania, Ninth New Hampshire, Twelfth and Thirteenth Massachusetts and Sixteenth Maine, Rickett's Division, Hooker's First Army Corps, under Gen. George B. McClellan, Army of the Potomac.

Mr. Andrews marched with the regiment on the first day, but was taken violently sick with fever, and on the morning of September 8 was sent back to Harewood Hospital, Washington. As soon as he could stand and walk he attempted to find his regiment, and after various delays joined it at Sharpsburg, Maryland, in October. From there he marched with the regiment across the South Mountains, crossed the Potomac at Berlin, thence via Waterford, Hamilton, Middleburg, White Plains, Warrington, etc., to Rappahannock Station, and then to Brook's Station, Virginia; being sick and unfit for duty during the entire march. To add to the hardship and suffering, the men had left their knapsacks at Washington when starting on the campaign, and were without overcoats or change of clothing from September 7 to November 27; and during that period encountered severe weather and hard storms, so that a large per cent. of the men were sick and off duty. About this time Comrade Andrews was detailed as "cattle guard," and to shoot the beeves for the brigade, which relieved him from drill, picket and guard duty and other hardships incident to the regular service, and permitted marching without carrying a heavy load. During the battle of Fredericksburg he took a bunch of beeves to the battlefield and slaughtered them for food for the troops of the brigade.

On the "Burnside mud march" he was serving with the "cattle guard," but soon afterwards voluntarily returned to his company and put in the remainder of the winter at regular duty; drilling, on picket and camp guard, having partially recovered his health.

Mr. Andrews served with the regiment at the second battle of Fredericksburg and at Chancellorsville, May, 1863, where he suffered a severe relapse and contracted an illness from which he never fully recovered. However, he started from near Fredericksburg on the Gettysburg campaign, and completely collapsed and was sent from Centerville to Fairfax Seminary Hospital in June, 1863, suffering from debility and fever. He joined the regiment again at Rappahannock Station in time to participate in an engagement there on August 1, 1863, and continued to serve in the fall campaign in the advance of the army to the Rapidan river; and on the retreat of the army back to Centerville in October, 1863; where he was again prostrated with a severe illness and sent to the field hospital, but

went on duty again before recovery and participated in the battle of Mine Run in November, 1863.

During the fall and winter of 1863-4, on account of ill health, he was relieved from drill, picket and guard duty, and detailed as company clerk.

In May, 1864, Mr. Andrews marched with the regiment and participated in the battles of the Wilderness and Spottsylvania. The Sixteenth Maine was a fighting regiment from start to finish, commanded by the gallant, brave Col. Charles W. Tilden, afterwards brevet brigadier-general; and by Lieut.-Col. Augustus B. Farnham, brevet colonel, and the adjutant, Abner R. Small, was of the best in the army, afterwards major. The regiment suffered heavy losses. It bore upon its rolls the names of one thousand nine hundred and sixty-two officers and men, of whom one hundred and seventy-eight were killed in battle or died of wounds, two hundred and eighty-eight were wounded in action, fifty-two missing in action, some of whom were probably killed, two hundred and seventy-one died of disease, and two hundred and seventy-seven were discharged for disability; a large number were captured by the Rebels in battle and were confined in prisons, where many perished. At Fredericksburg the regiment lost fifty-four per cent. of the men who went into the fight, killed and wounded. At Gettysburg after a hard fight and losing heavily the first day, it was ordered to hold its position "at all hazards," to enable the remainder of the division to retreat from the field and gain a new position. The order was faithfully and literally obeyed, that gallant handful of men held the line until the Rebels swarmed around them, overwhelmed and captured most of them. Only two officers and fifteen men escaped and remained for duty at the close of the battle. The remainder, except those killed and wounded, were captured by the Rebels and taken to prison at Richmond, Virginia, including Colonel Tilden, who had the proud record of escaping through the tunnel from Libby Prison the following winter.

The various organizations to which the regiment belonged were as follow: It was assigned to Hartsuff's Brigade as before stated. In October General Hartsuff was succeeded by Gen. Nathan Taylor in command of the brigade, and soon afterwards the Sixteenth Maine was transferred to the First Brigade, same division, composed of the Twelfth Massachusetts, Ninety-fourth and One Hundred and Fourth New York, One Hundred and Seventh Pennsylvania, and the Sixteenth Maine, commanded by Col. Adrian R. Root, of the Ninety-Fourth New York, who assumed command on November 19, 1862. Gen. John Robinson took command of the Second Division, and Gen. John F. Reynolds commanded the First Army Corps. About

October, 1862, General McClellan was relieved from command of the Army of Potomac and was succeeded by Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside who fought the first battle of Fredericksburg. He was relieved about March, 1863, by Gen. Joseph Hooker, who fought the second battle of Fredericksburg and the battle of Chancellorsville in May, 1863. He was relieved in turn the last of June by Gen. George G. Mead, who fought the battle of Gettysburg, July, 1863, and commanded the army until the close of the war.

After General Reynolds was killed at Gettysburg, the First Corps was commanded by Gen. John Newton until March, 1864, when it was consolidated with the Fifth Corps, commanded by Gen. G. K. Warren, until the battle of Five Forks, and afterwards by Gen. Charles Griffin. General Robinson commanded the Second Division, First Corps until March, 1864, when it was consolidated and became the Second Division of the Fifth Corps. At the battle of Spottsylvania, May 8, 1864, he lost a leg, and Col. Dick Coulter had temporary command of the division. On May 10, the brigade was temporarily assigned to the First Division under Gen. Lysamis Cutler. On June 8, 1864, the brigade was transferred to General Crawford's Third Division, Fifth Corps. It had various commanders at different periods. Colonel Root commanded at Fredericksburg, both battles, and at Chancellorsville. It went into the battle of Gettysburg under Gen. Gabrielle Paul, who had both eyes shot out, and was succeeded, respectively, by Colonels Root, Leonard and Coulter, who were all wounded. This little brigade lost over one thousand men the first day at Gettysburg. Colonel Leonard commanded during the fall and winter of 1863-4, and up to the battle of Spottsylvania, May 8, 1864. Col. Thomas F. McCoy seems to have been in command at the battle of Weldon Railroad, Virginia, August 18, 1864. On August 21, 1864, the Sixteenth Maine was transferred to General Baxter's Second Brigade.

The First Brigade during the winter of 1863-4 was stationed at Mitchell's Station, Virginia, on the Orange and Alexandria railroad, between Culpeper and the Rapidan river, south of Slaughter's Mountain.

As before stated, Comrade Andrews suffered from repeated attacks of sickness, which seriously mitigated against his success and advancement as a soldier. Notwithstanding which, and without solicitation, he was tendered promotion by Captain Plummer, which was promptly declined against the earnest protest of the captain, on the ground that it would deprive other comrades, who had performed better service, from merited promotion. On account of continued ill health and disability for further active duty in the

field, he was again sent to the hospital at Washington, the last part of May, 1864, from which he never returned to duty with the regiment. After convalescence he was detailed as a clerk at Mount Pleasant United States Hospital, Washington, where by close attention and fidelity to duty he became chief clerk of the hospital a year later, with fifty clerks and ward masters under his direction. By order of the war department he was directed to be transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps for duty, which was barely escaped by the close of the war. He served out his time as chief clerk, and was discharged for disability at Washington, July 13, 1865. After discharge he continued his position a month longer to assist his commanding officer to discharge and muster out the men who were inmates of the hospital, and to close out the post.

Without solicitation Comrade Andrews received the following certificates of service from his commanding officers:

"WATERFORD, MAINE, September 20, 1864.

"This may certify that Henry F. Andrews, a private of Co. D, 16 Me. Vols. has, during his two years of service, shown himself to be not only a true soldier, but a young man possessed of more than ordinary business capacity. He has a greater portion of the time been employed by me as company clerk, and by his strict and close attention to his duty has proved himself to be an able and efficient person to perform all such labors imposed upon him.

"I would, therefore, cheerfully recommend him for some better position which his talents, industry and general character eminently deserve.

"(Signed) S. K. PLUMMER,

"Capt. Co. D, 16 Maine Vols."

"Mt. Pleasant Hospital, Washington, D. C.,

July 16, 1865.

"As the time draws near when the hospital will close, I should be doing injustice to my feelings were I not to express to you my gratification for the efficient manner in which you have performed the duties of chief clerk of the main office.

"Your character has always been most exemplary. After your honorable discharge you returned to the hospital and resumed your old duties, although no provision had been made for your employment—an action worthy of all praise, and in marked contrast to the selfish course pursued by others. I consider that the promptitude with which I was enabled to

muster out and discharge the convalescent soldiers was due in no small degree to your labors—and you are entitled to the gratitude of your former comrades as well as my own thanks. Wishing for you every success,

“I remain very truly your friend,

(Signed) “H. ALLEN,

“Asst. Surg. U. S. A., In Charge.

“HENRY FRANKLIN ANDREWS,

“Late Co. D. 16 Maine.”

The following certificate was given by the officer last named in response to a request for a recommendation for an appointment in the War Department:

“Mount Pleasant Hospital, Washington, D. C.,

“July 16, 1865.

“Sir—In reply to your request that I would give you my opinion as to your fitness for the position of clerk at the War Department, I would say that I have rarely met in the service with one more devoted to his duties than yourself, or who was less disposed to secure promotion at the expense of the interests of his fellow soldiers. I can also affirm to your efficiency as a clerk, for you have assumed charge of the main office of this hospital to my entire satisfaction. I hope that in the disposal of the appointments, the claim of those who have already rendered faithful service to the Government will be considered.

“(Signed) H. ALLEN,

“Ass’t Surg. U. S. A. In Charge.”

“HENRY FRANKLIN ANDREWS,

“Late Priv. Co. D, 16th Maine Vols.”

The foregoing documents were from a regular army officer, commanding a post of three thousand sick and wounded men and convalescents, embracing every branch of the army service, guarded by three companies of the Veteran Reserve Corps, with thirty surgeons or more, and numerous stewards, wardmasters, clerks, attendants, etc., under his command, equalizing the command of a division in the field. It was an unusual act for such officers to present a volunteer enlisted man such compliments. The service which suggested this action was such as had merited his special approval.

Instead of accepting a clerkship Comrade Andrews retired to civil life. He came to Exira on October 3, 1865, whither his parents had moved

while he was in the army, where he has since principally resided. During the winters of 1865-6 and 1866-7, he taught school, and worked at farming and carpentering in the summer months. He served as county recorder, 1867-8; county judge, 1868; was admitted to the bar 1870. He was deputy United States marshal, and enumerated for the eleventh United States census for the counties of Audubon and Shelby, in 1870. In 1872 he attended one term at the school of the law department, Iowa State University. Admitted to the supreme court of Iowa, 1884, and to practice before the United States department of the interior the same year, and to the United States district and circuit courts in 1886. Employed as county attorney, 1884-6. He was state senator, 1892-5; notary public for many years; mayor of Exira, 1894-5; justice of the peace, 1905-8. He has been a member of the Free Masons; Knights of Pythias, in which he held the office of chancellor commander; Improved Order of Red Men; Modern Woodmen of America; Iowa Legion of Honor; Grand Army of the Republic, in which he held nearly every office in the post. Four times colonel and aid-de-camp on the staff of the national commander, Grand Army of the Republic. He devoted much time in assisting the old veteran comrades to obtain pensions and claims for army and navy services from the government.

Mr. Andrews was chairman of the military committee in the Senate of Iowa at the time of building the Iowa soldiers' monument at Des Moines; was author of the bill which placed the Grand Army of the Republic headquarters in the state house; author of bill granting aid to indigent soldiers; author of the plan placing the sixth judge on the supreme court of Iowa; an active supporter of the historical department of Iowa. He has given liberally of his time in promoting various associations for the reunions of the veterans of the Civil War. Colonel of the Audubon County Veteran Regiment, 1904; general of the Nishua Botna Veteran Association, 1905; general of the Western Iowa Veteran Association; 1906; member and active supporter of the National Association of Civil War Musicians. A leading and successful member of the Audubon county bar, and has been engaged in many business enterprises. He has been an extensive landowner, land agent and dealer in real estate, farmer, stock grower, fruit grower, merchant, dealer and shipper of grain and live stock.

One of the founders of the town of West Exira, 1879. He built the first brick building in Audubon county in 1873. The county records and newspaper files of Audubon county show that Mr. Andrews has been a busy man since 1865, and that he has ever been devoted to the interests of the people among whom he has lived.

Henry Franklin Andrews is the author of "The Andrews Family," published in 1890; "The Hamlin Family," 1894; "The Hamlin Family," 1900; "The Hamlin Family," 1902; and other publications. And author of the "History of Audubon County."

Mr. Andrews is a Republican. He is an agnostic.

To Mr. and Mrs. Andrews the following children were born at Exira: Charles Franklin, born on April 24, 1872, unmarried; Claude Norton, March 10, 1874, unmarried; Jessamine Julia, April 16, 1877, unmarried; Wallace Pearl, July 28, 1879, unmarried; John Hamlin, October 15, 1886, unmarried; Philip Stearns, July 20, 1888, married Fleta E. Walker.

AUGUST DREIER.

August Dreier, who owns a well-improved farm of eighty acres in section 2 of Audubon township, with a splendid house, barn and other buildings, equipped with all modern conveniences, was born on January 28, 1874, in Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany, the son of Fritz and Augusta (Schowlo) Dreier, also natives of Germany, born in the same place as their son. Fritz Dreier was a laborer in his native land but engaged in farming after coming to the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Dreier had eight children: Fritz, Jr., August, William, Minnie, Louisa, Herman, Charles and Louis, all of whom are living in the United States. Besides August, his brother, William, and his sister, Minnie, live in Audubon county. Minnie is the wife of William Nieman.

Coming to the United States in 1892 alone and landing at Boston, August Dreier came directly to Audubon county, Iowa, where his uncle, August Burr, already lived. Four years later, in 1896, his parents and the remainder of the family came to this country, settling in Audubon county, where the father lived until his death.

August Dreier attended school until he was fifteen years old and then worked at various occupations until he was twenty, when he decided to come to this country. After arriving here he worked by the month for six years and farmed for his father for about three years. In 1901 he went to Garrett, Indiana, and worked in the Baltimore & Ohio railroad shops for two years. He then came back to Audubon county, where he rented land until 1910. In that year, Mr. Dreier purchased eighty acres of land in section 2 of Audubon township and here he now lives. He has rebuilt

the house which now consists of six large rooms, and he has also built a new corn crib and made other improvements, such as the erection of hog houses, a hen house and the installation of waterworks on the farm.

On September 12, 1900, August Dreier was married to Edna Niemann, who was born on March 12, 1880, in Mecklenburg, Germany, and who is the daughter of Carl and Christina (Aherend) Niemann, also natives of Mecklenburg, Germany. Mrs. Dreier's father, who was a shepherd in the old country, took up farming on coming to America. He and his wife were the parents of ten children: William, Herman, Minnie, Augusta, Louisa, Eda, Paul, Elbert, Carl and one who died in infancy. The Niemann family, after coming to this country in 1894, came direct from New York City to Audubon county. The parents are now deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. August Dreier are the parents of six children: Anna, born on June 17, 1901; William, March 29, 1903; Minnie, June 17, 1904; Martha, March 23, 1907; Elmer, November 24, 1908, and Clara, November 2, 1910.

A Democrat in politics, the only office which Mr. Dreier has ever held is that of school director, in which he served with conspicuous satisfaction. The Dreier family are members of the German Lutheran church.

Although Mr. Dreier is engaged in general farming, he keeps several milk cows for dairy purposes and these have proved very profitable investments. He is a skillful farmer, a man of modest demeanor, wholly unassuming in his relations with his neighbors, and one who, for that reason, is popular in the community where he lives.

SOREN S. FAABORG.

Another of the well-known native-born Danish farmers of Sharon township, Audubon county, Iowa, who have succeeded in a large measure since coming to America, is Soren S. Faaborg, the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of land in Sharon township, who was born in Denmark, March 31, 1853, the son of Simon S. and Christena (Allen) Faaborg. The father and mother came to America in 1875, and after locating in Clinton county, Iowa, there rented a farm for five years. The father died in Audubon county, July 4, 1899; his wife, the mother of Soren S. Faaborg, died in 1875, a few days after their arrival in America. They were the parents of six children.

Soren S. Faaborg, after having been educated in his native land, worked as a farm hand for four years, and when he was twenty years old came to America, locating in Clinton county, Iowa, where he also worked as a farm hand for three years. Mr. Faaborg rented land for six years, and in 1882, when he was twenty-nine years old removed to Audubon county, and settled upon the farm where he now lives, and for which he paid at the beginning eight and nine dollars an acre. The farm originally consisted of eighty acres, but has been increased to one hundred and twenty. Mr. Faaborg broke most of the sod on the farm, and has invested since purchasing the place some five thousand dollars in improvements of various kinds. He is accustomed to raise at least forty acres of corn every year, which yields an average of sixty bushels to the acre, a higher yield than is usually got in this neighborhood. He feeds about fifty head of hogs every year, and the combination of mixed farming has proved very successful for him.

Soren S. Faaborg was married on August 21, 1881, eight years after coming to this country, in Clinton county, Iowa, to Kjestena Petersen, daughter of Knud and Kjestena (Boysen) Petersen. Mr. and Mrs. Faaborg have had eleven children, as follow: Dorothy, Signe, Dagmar, Cecelia, Johannah, Agnes, Simon and Knud, all of whom are living, and three children who are deceased, Simon, Johannah and Agnes. Of these children, Dorothy married Sophus Sorensen, and they have three children, Larha, Soren and Eva. Signa married Peter Hansen, and they have five children, Harold, Arnold, Alvin, Ernest and Alma. Dagmar married Hans Jessen, and they have two children, Richard and Carl. Cecelia married Albert Larson. Johannah married Oscar Sorensen. The remainder of the family are unmarried and live at home.

Mrs. Faaborg, a native of Denmark, came to America with her parents in 1872. Her father, who was a farm hand in his native land, after coming to America located in Chicago, Illinois, where he worked as a laborer for two years, and then removed to Clinton county, Iowa, where he worked for the Rock Island Railway Company. After quitting the railway service in which he was engaged for nine years, he removed to Audubon county, Iowa, and purchased eighty acres of land. He is now living retired at Elkhorn.

A Democrat in politics, Mr. Faaborg has held several offices of trust and responsibility in his community, having served as school director and as road supervisor. Mr. and Mrs. Faaborg are members of the Danish Lutheran church, and Mr. Faaborg is a trustee of the church. He is one of the best-known citizens of the community, honorable, upright and fair in

all of the relations of life, a man who has always paid strict attention to his business, and who has always filled with scrupulous pains his business and social obligations. He is a worthy citizen of this great country, which has become his home by adoption.

PETER H. ANDERSON.

Born December 28, 1856, in Denmark, Peter H. Anderson, a well-known farmer and stockman of Sharon township, and the son of Hans and Margaret (Jensen) Anderson, both of whom were natives of Denmark and who lived and died in that country where they were farmers, has made a phenomenal success of farming since coming to America in 1882. Mr. Anderson was educated in the schools of his native land, and after leaving school worked as a hired hand until he decided to come to America. He was one of nine children born to his parents, seven of whom are now living, but he is the only member of the family living in this county.

Arriving in America in 1882, he located in Sharon township, Audubon county, Iowa, where he purchased a hundred and twenty acres of land, for a portion of which he paid fifteen dollars, and for the balance, twenty-five dollars an acre. In the meantime, however, Mr. Anderson has added forty acres to his original tract, and now owns a farm of a hundred and sixty acres, upon which he has invested upwards of eight thousand dollars in general improvements, such as buildings, fences, ditches, etc. He is engaged in general or mixed farming; raises fifty acres of corn a year, which averages sixty bushels to the acre, and feeds a hundred head of hogs and forty-five head of cattle annually; he keeps only the very highest grade of live stock. Mr. Anderson has a one-hundred-ton silo on his farm, and was one of the first agriculturists in this part of Audubon county to erect a silo, an investment that has proved very profitable. Since Mr. Anderson's silo was erected, many other farmers of the neighborhood have also erected and maintained silos.

Peter H. Anderson was married in 1881 in Denmark, one year before coming to America, to Anna Madsen. No children were born to this first marriage and, after her death, Mr. Anderson was married in 1899, to Carrie Hansen, daughter of Chris Hansen. To this second marriage three children have been born, all of whom are unmarried and who live at home with their parents; they are, Anna, Hans and Christena.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter H. Anderson are prominent and influential members of the Danish Lutheran church, in which Mr. Anderson has served as a trustee. He is an independent voter, and since coming to this country has never identified himself permanently with any political party. He supports measures and men rather than parties and party emblems, and in this way believes he can more worthily discharge his duties as an intelligent and alert citizen who has at heart the best interests of his neighborhood, his county and his state. Mr. Anderson is known in Sharon township where he lives as an enterprising farmer and valuable citizen; he is well liked by the people of his neighborhood and is admired and honored for his industry, his skill and the good management of his farm.

ANDERS JEPPESEN.

Anders Jeppesen, the proprietor of a splendid farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Sharon township, Audubon county, Iowa, and a well-known citizen of this community, was born on December 24, 1870, in Denmark, the son of Jorgen and Bertha Jeppesen, the former of whom was a plasterer by trade and who has followed this occupation all his life. Of his seven children only two, Anders and a daughter, are living at this time in America.

Anders Jeppesen was educated in the public schools of Denmark and worked as a farm hand after leaving the schools of his native land, until he came to America in 1892. After arriving in this country and locating in Nebraska he worked as a farm hand until he came to Audubon county, Iowa, and purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Sharon township, where he has since been engaged in general farming. Mr. Jeppesen has invested about five thousand dollars in improvements of various kinds on the farm and raises about forty acres of corn every year, which he feeds to live stock, and sells each year from fifty to seventy-five head of hogs from the farm.

Anders Jeppesen was married in 1894, two years after his arrival in this country, to Jacobena Christiansen, the daughter of Knud and Christina Christiansen. Of the twelve children born to this union, ten are now living: Mina, Amalie, Johannes, Kirstine, Knud, Bothilde, Anna, Marie, Jorgen, Herluf, Karl and Hertha.

Mrs. Jeppesen is also a native of Denmark. Her mother came to America after the death of her father and located in Elkhorn, Iowa, one

year. Subsequently she came to Audubon county, Iowa. Christina Jeppesen was the mother of nine children.

Mr. and Mrs. Jeppesen have been members of the Danish Lutheran church since coming to this country, and Mr. Jeppesen has been for a long time a trustee in this church. The Jeppesen family are active in the affairs of their denomination and are prominent and influential citizens in the community where they reside.

Anders Jeppesen is one of the native sons of the thriving little kingdom of Denmark who has come to this country and who has established a comfortable home and surrounded himself with the conveniences of life. The Danish people are among the best citizens of this great republic and Anders Jeppesen is no exception to the rule. He is popular in the neighborhood and ranks as a high-class, intelligent and successful farmer.

ERNEST BERNARD VOSS.

Among those citizens of Audubon county, Iowa, who are possessed of great strength of character and who have impressed their personality upon the community where they live, taking a full share in the building and development of the county, is Ernest Bernard Voss, of Exira, who is a well-known contractor and builder and who was formerly engaged in farming. He is a man of upright principles and has had a large part in the advancement of the community.

Mr. Voss is the son of John and Caroline (Ruff) Voss and was born at Strasburg, France, on January 24, 1864. He came with his parents on the steamship "Colorado," to this country, arriving at New York city, November 7, 1870. The family settled at Ground Point, Indiana, but, in February, 1871, moved to Homestead, Iowa. In December, 1876, they moved to Audubon county.

In 1889 Mr. Voss purchased eighty acres of land in section 3, of Audubon township, where he lived for several years, improving the farm and developing it to a very high degree. In November, 1893, Mr. Voss moved to Exira and, until 1895, conducted a meat market at that place. He was town marshal of Exira for four years during his first residence in this city. Subsequently, Mr. Voss engaged, in partnership with John Peterman, in contract building. They operated a planing-mill and repair shop in Exira until 1906, when Mr. Voss moved to a farm in section 36, of Exira town-

ship, which he had previously purchased. Here he remained until 1908, when he purchased a two-hundred-acre farm in Eureka township, Adair county, Iowa. In February, 1911, Mr. Voss moved back to Exira and again engaged in contract building. He operates a planing-mill and repair shop.

On April 20, 1889, Ernest B. Voss was married, in Audubon township, Audubon county, Iowa, to Anna Petri, the daughter of John and Wilhelmina (Wagner) Petri. The marriage ceremony was performed by Rev. William Ehlers. Mrs. Voss died on July 2, 1909, in Eureka township, Adair county, leaving seven children: John Charles, who married Eva Van Slyke; William Henry, who married Leola Lair; George Charles, who married Evelyn Rendleman; Frances Mary, Martha, Clara and Mary, who are unmarried. The last two named, Clara and Mary, are twins. On January 1, 1912, Mr. Voss was married, secondly, in Stuart, Iowa, to Laura Eunice Wright, the daughter of Nathan and Mary (Harlan) Wright. The ceremony was performed by Rev. N. A. Hollingshead.

Mr. Voss has always been identified with the Republican party, and has been more or less prominent in local politics. In fact, he has no little influence in the local councils of his party in this county. Mr. Voss is a member of the J. C. Newton Camp, Modern Woodmen of America. He is an enterprising business man, a well-known citizen and has a host of friends throughout this and adjoining counties.

SAMUEL RICHARD JOHNSON.

Samuel Richard Johnson is a native of Illinois, his birthplace being in Grundy county. He was born on August 8, 1876. His father, John Johnson, was a native of Sweden, and his mother, Christina Johnson, was a native of Norway. John Johnson migrated to America with his parents and located in Grundy county, Illinois. They lived there for several years, and there the parents died. In Grundy county John Johnson met and married the mother of the subject of this sketch. He rented land in that county. In the spring of 1881, John Johnson brought his family to Audubon county, where he obtained eighty acres of land in Sharon township, and began immediately to make improvements on it. In 1900 he retired from active work, and removed to Audubon, where he died in 1904. His widow still resides there.

John Johnson limited his work to farming, in which he was successful. In religious matters, he and his wife were affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal church. He was a Republican. The family of Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson consisted of nine children, five of whom are living, namely: John P., a merchant and farmer of Greenfield, Iowa; Edward F., county supervisor, living in Audubon; Mary, who married Clarence Wildy, of Douglas township, this county; Samuel Richard, the subject of this biography; and Elmer, a carpenter of Atlantic, Iowa.

Samuel Johnson was educated in the schools of Audubon county, including a year's work in the Audubon schools. After his twenty-first birthday, he left home to spend three years in southeast Wyoming. The life of the ranch interested him, and he at first took up this picturesque occupation, but later left it for railroad work. Like his ancestors, he was fond of tilling the soil, and at the first opportunity to obtain some land for himself, he procured one hundred and sixty acres from the government and proved up on this homestead in the West.

In 1898, Samuel Richard Johnson was married to Cora Creasman, who was born in Wyoming, a daughter of Frank Creasman. The following year, they left Wyoming and returned to Audubon county, locating five miles southwest from Audubon. They lived for three years in Hamlin township, and then in Melville township for two years. Returning to Hamlin township, they resided there three years, when Mr. Johnson purchased his present farm of eighty acres in section 12, of Leroy township. This has become known as "the old Johnson place," and is one of the best improved properties of the county. The owner has been much interested in the raising of Short-horn cattle, of which he has twenty head; Duroc-Jersey hogs, of which he has from fifty to sixty head, and draft horses. Besides this, he engages in all the industries carried on by the modern progressive farmer.

To Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have been born four children, Orpha, Helen, Herbert and Floyd.

A man of modest tastes, Mr. Johnson has never been an office seeker. He always votes the Republican ticket. He is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge of Audubon, also of the Methodist Episcopal church, which his wife also attends.

Mr. Johnson's home is one of the landmarks of Audubon county, and has become so not only because of long residence there, but also because of the place he and his wife have occupied in the social and religious life of the community. Both he and Mrs. Johnson are delightful people to meet. They are genial in temperament, well informed, and kindly in spirit, qualities which win for them many friends.

JOHN F. HILL.

One of the oldest citizens in Audubon county, Iowa, the late John F. Hill, had been a resident of the great Hawkeye state almost continuously for nearly sixty years, with the exception of four years, which he gave to the service of his country during the dark and bloody days of the American Civil War. Not only did Mr. Hill himself have an honorable and valiant military record, but he is descended from militant stock, his grandfather, Frederick Hill, who came to this country from Germany, having served in the American Revolution and having fought valiantly for several years in the cause of freedom. An uncle of John F. Hill, John Hill, was a brave soldier in the War of 1812.

Before Mr. Hill had attained his majority, he enlisted in the regular army, November 2, 1851, at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and was sent to Santa Fe, New Mexico, to serve in the Third United States Infantry. From Santa Fe, he was detailed to the barracks at Newport, Kentucky, for the winter, and in the spring of the next year was sent to St. Louis, Missouri, from which the Third Infantry moved to Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. From Ft. Leavenworth he drove through to Santa Fe. In the meantime, his parents, or rather his grandparents, having found out that he had enlisted, began proceedings to get his discharge, as he was not of age at the time of his enlistment. When he arrived in Santa Fe, his discharge was awaiting him and he then found it necessary to drive all the way from Santa Fe to Missouri, and from Missouri home.

John F. Hill was born on December 27, 1831, in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, and died on June 12, 1915. His parents, Henry and Frances (Burns) Hill, were also natives of Bedford county. Henry Hill was the son of Frederick Hill, of Revolutionary fame, who was born in Germany and who came to America shortly before the American Revolution. John F. Hill was the only child born to his parents and his father, who was a blacksmith by trade, died when John F. was only three years old. John F. then went to live with his grandfather, Frederick Hill, and was reared and educated by him, attending the old-fashioned log cabin school.

After the death of his grandfather, John F. Hill took up farming and in 1857 came to Iowa, driving through from Pennsylvania to Cedar county. There he remained until 1860 when he moved to Johnson county. On November 2, 1861, Mr. Hill enlisted in Company F, Fourteenth Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, which was a part of the Sixteenth Army Corps,

Army of the Tennessee. Mr. Hill's first battle was that of Ft. Donaldson, Tennessee, which was an exciting event in his career. He next fought at Shiloh, then at Corinth, Mississippi, and finally at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana. After taking Ft. Derusa, Louisiana, the Fourteenth Iowa Infantry was engaged in a battle at Yellow Bayou, Louisiana, and again at Tupelo, Mississippi. From this place the Fourteenth Iowa Infantry was sent to Missouri, where the regiment served until November 8, 1864, when it was mustered out. Mr. Hill was never wounded nor taken prisoner throughout the war and was sick only about two weeks during the entire period of the war.

After being mustered out of the Union army, he returned to Johnson county, Iowa, where he lived for twelve years, and in April, 1872, came to Audubon county, Iowa, where he rented land in Greeley township for six years. Mr. Hill then purchased the farm in section 6, of Audubon county, where he lived until the fall of 1914. He then retired and moved to Exira, Iowa, where he lived until the time of his death.

On March 1, 1855, John F. Hill was married, in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, to Elizabeth May, who was born on March 31, 1834, in Bedford county, the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Kellerman) May, both of whom were of German descent.

To Mr. and Mrs. John F. Hill were born five children, Hester, Jacob H., Jennie, Ella and Bert. Hester married Samuel McCord and has seven children: Charles, who first married Hattie Hicke and had one child, Russell, and after her death married Maggie Teffler and has three children, Cecil, Gerald and another; Grace, who married James Hendricksen and has three children, Bertha, Mabel and Everett; Clarence, who married Martha Teffler and has one child; Mabel, who married Walter Wood, and has one child, Clifford; Floyd, who married Lena Marsh and has three children; Verna, who married William Fawler and has three children; and Harley, who is unmarried. Jacob H. married Evelyn Young and has one child, Flossie, who married Oscar Nimblin and has three children, Glenn, Agnes and Carl. Jennie married William Zike and had three children, Verna, now deceased, who married Earl Prime and had two children, Wayne and Pearl; Oliver and Golden, who are both single. Ella married Newton Brown and has two children, Goldie, who married Glenn Cassidy and has two children, Lester and Ralph; and Edna, who is unmarried. Bert is unmarried and still lives at home. Mr. and Mrs. Hill had thirteen grandchildren and twenty-two great-grandchildren.

John F. Hill was a member of Morton Post No. 34, Grand Army of the Republic, and was one of the charter members of the post. He was com-

mander of the post at one time. Mrs. Hill is a member of the Christian church. Although John F. Hill was an ardent Republican and a great admirer of the career and works of Abraham Lincoln, he was never especially active in politics and never held office.

John F. Hill was a worthy citizen of this great state. A patriot at heart, he had the satisfaction of knowing that no man living in Audubon county had given more of his life energy to the cause of his country than he. No man served more valiantly in the Civil War, and no man living in Audubon county excelled John F. Hill as a citizen and neighbor.

ERNEST STUEDEMAN.

The late Ernest Stuedeman, who was a retired farmer and stockman of Lincoln township, Audubon county, Iowa, was born on October 14, 1846, in Stettin, Prussia, Germany, and died on May 12, 1915, at his home in Lincoln township. He was the son of John and Fredrica Stuedeman, and came to this country from Germany with his parents when he was fourteen years of age. He attended the country schools and worked for his father until he was twenty-four years of age, when he was married. After his marriage he farmed for himself on his father's farm, remaining there about twenty-eight years, and then bought one hundred and sixty acres. He sold this land in 1888 and then rented a farm in Crawford county, where he lived for fifteen years. He left that place and came to Manning, where he bought a farm in Lincoln township, section 20, in 1903. This place contained two hundred and forty acres, for which he paid sixty-two and one-half dollars an acre. Mr. Stuedeman put about twelve thousand dollars worth of improvements on his farm. During the time he was in business, he sold about two carloads of cattle and three carloads of hogs annually. All the grain raised on the farm was fed to the stock.

John and Fredrica Stuedeman, the parents of Ernest Stuedeman, were both born in Germany, where the former worked on a farm. In 1860 they came, with their family, to America, landing at New York City and later removed to Clinton county, Iowa. John Stuedeman had eight hundred dollars when he arrived in this country, with which he purchased a farm of forty acres, paying twelve dollars an acre for it. In a few years, he bought one hundred and sixty acres more at a cost of thirteen dollars an acre, and continued to add to his acres until he owned an entire section of land in

Clinton county. To John and Fredrica Stuedeman were born ten children, one of whom died in Germany. The others were Otto, Albert, Bertha, Rudolph, Martha, Anna, Lucia, Ernest and Carl, all of whom are now deceased with the exception of Otto and Rudolph, the latter of whom lives on the old home farm in Clinton county.

At the age of twenty-four, Ernest Stuedeman was united in marriage with Anna Rohwedder, the daughter of Max Rohwedder. She was born on June 24, 1848, and died on August 1, 1895. To this union were born nine children, namely: Lucia, who is married, lives in Carroll county and has three children; Catherine died in infancy; Alma, who lives in Manning, is married and has two children; Elsa, who resides in Wisconsin, is married and has three children; Matilda is at home; Erwin, who is a farmer in Audubon county, is married and has one child; Laura, Max and Virtus are all at home.

Mr. Stuedeman was a Democrat and served as constable of Clinton county in 1880 and school director of Lincoln township for two years. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and passed all of the chairs in this lodge. The Stuedeman family are all loyal members of the German Lutheran church, Mr. Stuedeman having belonged at Manning.

CHRIS P. LAURITSEN.

Chris P. Lauritsen, who owns a splendid farm of two hundred acres in Sharon township, Audubon county, Iowa, was born on the Island of Aerøe, Denmark, May 23, 1847, and is the son of Peter H. and Ellen Marie (Simonsen) Lauritsen, both natives of Denmark. Peter Lauritsen was a farmer and was engaged in that occupation all of his life. He died in his native land after having reared a family of eleven children. Chris P. is the youngest of these children; one brother is still living in Denmark.

Chris Lauritsen received his education in his native land, and after leaving school worked as a farm hand and in a brick yard. He also served in the Danish army and when he was thirty-four years old, came to America, locating in Shelby county, Iowa. There he purchased eighty acres of land and engaged in general farming for two years. Subsequently, he moved to Audubon county and purchased the farm upon which he is now living. Mr. Lauritsen bought only forty acres at first and for this paid eighteen dollars an acre. He improved the land by careful cultivation and by the erection

of substantial buildings and fences, and added to the original tract until he now owns two hundred acres of land. Altogether he has invested probably more than ten thousand dollars in improvements. He raises seventy-five acres of corn, forty acres of alfalfa and small grains. Mr. Lauritsen had fifteen hundred dollars when he came to America.

Chris P. Lauritsen was married, in 1882, to Anna Marie Hansen, the daughter of Rasmus and Christina Hansen. Two children, Peter H. and Ellen Marie, have been born to this marriage. Ellen Marie married Claus J. Larsen and has four children, Chester, Edna, Edward and Lillian. Mrs. Lauritsen was born on the Island of Aerøe, Denmark, and her parents also were natives of that island.

Mr. Lauritsen is a Republican. He and his family are members of the Danish Lutheran church, of which he has been trustee. Mr. and Mrs. Lauritsen deserve great credit for their careful management and frugal, economical living by which they have been able to save a substantial competence for their declining years. They are highly-respected citizens of this locality where they are so well known. Mr. Lauritsen has lived a useful career, and having reared a family to useful and honorable lives may enjoy the satisfaction during the remainder of his life of knowing that his days here have been well spent.

ABRAHAM L. McMURPHY.

Abraham L. McMurphy, general farmer and stockman, of Lincoln township, Audubon county, was born on May 6, 1864, at Muscatine, Iowa. He is a son of Charles and Martha McMurphy. He attended the public schools at Muscatine, after which he worked with his father on the farm, until twenty-one years of age. He then came to Audubon county, working for two years as a farm hand, and in 1887 rented a farm in Audubon county and lived there one year, at the end of which time he moved to Carrol county, where he again rented, for three years, and then came to section 29 in Lincoln township, Audubon county, where he bought eighty acres, to which five years later he added eighty acres more, and three years after that forty acres additional.

Mr. McMurphy has invested about eight thousand dollars in improvements on his home place, and his special attention, in the way of crops, has been devoted to the raising of corn and small grain, the most of which has been fed to the stock on the place, of which he sells yearly quite a number of cattle and about one carload of hogs.

Mr. McMurphy has served as township trustee for a period of one year. He is a member of the Methodist church. His political principles are Republican.

The father of the subject of this sketch was born in New York state, and his mother in Pennsylvania. They were married in Muscatine, Iowa, where they owned two hundred acres of land, and where they spent the last years of their lives.

Abraham L. McMurphy was married, in 1891, at Manning, Iowa, to Laura Arny, daughter of Levi and Sinda Arny. They have been blessed with five children, as follow: Virnal, Harry, Ralph, Eli and Myrtle, all of whom are at home but Virnal, who is married and lives in Audubon county.

HANS P. HANSEN, SR.

Among the many well-known farmers of Audubon county, Iowa, is Hans P. Hansen, Sr., who is now living retired in Kimballton. He and his wife started in life in a small way, and have by good management and unceasing industry achieved a large measure of success as farmers in this county. Few men are better known in Audubon county than Hans P. Hansen, and few have a greater number of warm friends than he. In 1912 he retired from the farm, removing to Kimballton, Iowa, where he purchased a fine home. He has always been a good farmer, and stock raiser, and a short time ago added fourteen acres to his farm in Sharon township, located five miles east of Kimballton.

Hans P. Hansen, Sr., was born on November 15, 1854, on the island of Fyen, Denmark, the son of Hans George and Mary Hansen, who were also natives of that island. The former was a farmer all his life, and died in his native land at the age of seventy-two years. His wife died at the age of forty-eight. They were members of the Danish Lutheran church, and lived to rear a family of three children, of whom Trena, the second born, is deceased; Hans P., the subject of this sketch, is the eldest of the family; Sorensen lives on the old home place in Denmark.

Educated in the schools of his native land, Hans P. Hansen, Sr., started out to make a living for himself at the age of fifteen. Taking up the vocation of farming he purchased a small tract of land and farmed in his native country, until 1886, when he came to America. He had been married in Denmark to Mary Hansen, who was born in that country, the daughter of

Hans Jepsen and Carrie Marie Hansen. Mrs. Hansen's father was a farmer, and spent all his life in his native land.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hans P. Hansen, Sr., have been born six children, namely: Carrie is the wife of Edward Jensen, of Sharon township, Audubon county; Hans George, who is engaged in the lumber business at Aurora, Nebraska, married Mary Hemmington; Lawrence is a real estate dealer at Exira, Iowa, and married Cina Gerloff; Nels was the fourth born; Axil is a farmer in Sharon township, and married Anton Augaard; Carl is a farmer in Sharon township, and married Kirsten Sorensen.

In 1886, after coming to America, Hans P. Hansen, Sr., located in Sharon township, where he was engaged in farming for four years for three different men, John Petersen, Martin Petersen and Lars Esbeck. About 1890 he purchased forty acres of land near Exira, and one year later sold the farm and rented a farm for five years in Hamlin township. He rented land in Oakfield township for three years and then purchased one hundred and twenty acres five miles east of Kimballton, to which he has lately added fourteen acres. Here he lived from 1900 to 1912, when he retired and removed to Kimballton.

Mr. Hansen has never aspired to any office, and is independent in politics, voting for measures and men of superior merit rather than for political parties and party emblems. Mr. and Mrs. Hansen are members of the Danish Lutheran church at Kimballton and take an active interest in the affairs of this congregation.

BERNARD DOFFING.

Although a resident of this country only eighteen years, Bernard Doffing, who was born on September 11, 1875, in Rhineland, Germany, has become the owner of a splendid farm comprising one-half section of land in section 16, of Audubon township.

Mr. Doffing's parents, Matthew and Catherine (Thellin) Doffing, had eight children, five of whom lived to maturity and all of whom live in the United States. All have lived in Audubon county at some time or other. William, the first of the sons to come to America, arrived here in 1881 and lived here until 1914, when he moved to Texas. After being there a short time, he moved to Missouri. All of the other children, except Bernard, came to America in 1893. Bernard Doffing came in 1897 and after landing at New York city, came direct to Audubon county, where he worked out by the month for two years.

After renting land for about three years, Mr. Doffing, in 1901, purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 16, of Audubon township, the farm where he now lives. He has since added one hundred and sixty acres to the original farm and now has one-half section of good land all of which is located in section 16. Mr. Doffing has built several substantial and modern buildings upon the farm, especially two barns, two cribs, a granary, a garage and a scale-house. The residence was standing on the farm when he purchased it. Altogether he now has one of the best improved farms in Audubon township.

Mr. Doffing makes a specialty of purebred, registered Hereford cattle and now has on the farm thirty-five head of registered stock. Although he has never shown any of these animals in the prize ring, he is a member of the National Hereford Breeders' Association. He has now been engaged in raising Hereford cattle for a period of three years.

A Democrat in politics, Mr. Doffing is the present township trustee of Audubon township. He is a member of the Exira Catholic church.

Since coming to America, Bernard Doffing has devoted himself almost exclusively to agriculture and the fact that he has given his vocation his undivided attention, is responsible perhaps for his great success as a farmer. He is generally known in Audubon township, not only as a skillful and successful farmer but as a good citizen and is popular in the neighborhood where he lives.

CHRIS HENRIKSEN.

It is a well authenticated fact that success comes as a result of legitimate and well applied energy, unflagging determination and perseverance in a course of action when once decided upon. Success was never known to smile upon the idler or dreamer and she never courts the loafer. Only those men who have diligently sought her favor, are crowned with her blessing. In tracing the history of Chris Henriksen, a retired merchant of Audubon, Iowa, and a well-known citizen of Audubon county, it is plainly seen that the success which he enjoys has been won by those commendable qualities heretofore mentioned. And it is also his personal worth that has gained for him the high esteem of the people of Audubon and Audubon county.

Chris Henriksen was born on August 23, 1855, in Denmark. He is

the son of Henry Iverson and Anna (Daita) Henriksen. They were laboring people who lived and died in the land of their birth. Four of the family, however, came to America. Iver came first in 1872. He lives in Audubon and is retired. Mary, the wife of Martin Rasmussen, lives in California. Christina, deceased, was the wife of Chris Berg.

Chris Henriksen attended school in Denmark and came to America in 1876. He worked for Captain Stuart in Stark county, Illinois, in the town of Osceola for three years and in 1879 came to Audubon county in the employ of Stuart. He worked for Stuart for one year and then worked on the railroad for two years. Finally he moved to a farm. After his marriage, he farmed for seven years in Sharon. He owned a farm of one hundred and forty acres, and in 1889 came to Audubon and was employed by a hardware firm for three years. In 1893 Mr. Henriksen purchased the general store of Fisher Brothers & Company and for twenty years was one of the leading merchants of the town. He sold out his stock in 1912 and retired. In 1901 Mr. Henriksen erected a fine brick building in Audubon. and in 1904 he erected a beautiful residence in the western part of Audubon. It is situated on a hillside with terraced grounds and excellent surroundings. Mr. Henriksen is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres in Cass county, three hundred and twenty acres in Day county, South Dakota, and ten acres in his home place. He also owns a fine store building. Chris Henriksen is a self-made man. He began life as a poor Danish boy and has managed to acquire and accumulate a substantial competence for his old age.

Chris Henriksen was married in 1883 to Alene Berg. She died in 1898, leaving five children, namely: Henry, who lives at Fresno, California; Theodore, of Audubon; Berg and Segivall, who are at home; and William, who is a clerk in the postoffice. Theodore is married and has one child, Leo. In 1899 Mr. Henriksen was married, secondly, to Anna Elizabeth (Jensen) Bornesen, the widow of Hans B. Bornesen. By her first marriage, she had four children as follow: Hans, who lives on a farm; Mrs. Jensena Jacobson, of Audubon county; George, a farmer in Leroy township; and Mrs. Margaret Hughes, who also lives in Audubon county.

Mr. Henriksen has been more or less active in the councils of the Democratic party and has served as city councilman in Audubon. He and his wife and family are members of the Danish Lutheran church. Mr. Henriksen is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Danish Brotherhood.

NELS PETER PETERSEN.

Nels Peter Petersen, one of the most prosperous farmers of Oakfield township, Audubon county, Iowa, who has been a resident of this country for nearly forty years, was born in Denmark, August 14, 1845, the son of Rasmus and Mary Ann (Nelson) Petersen. The father was a wagon maker in his native land and followed that occupation after coming to America in 1876. At that time, he located upon the farm where his son, who had preceded him to America, is now living.

Nels P. Petersen was one of three children born to his parents, the others being Hannah Marie and Anna Christina. In his native land, before coming to this country, he took up his father's occupation and was engaged in following this trade with his father. Incidentally, he also served the legal period of enlistment in the Danish army.

Upon coming to this country in 1870, Mr. Petersen located in Cass county, Iowa, where he worked for the Rock Island railroad for five years. He then purchased a farm of eighty acres at eight dollars an acre, and it is this farm upon which he now lives. The land consisted of raw prairie and the sod had never been broken, Mr. Petersen breaking it for the first time. From time to time he purchased more land, improving it as he bought it. Altogether it is fair to say that he has spent something like eight thousand dollars in various kinds of improvements. Most of the land is rented out now but Mr. Petersen himself raises sixty acres of corn and forty acres of small grain every year. For a young man who came into a strange country, where he was unfamiliar with the language and the customs of the people, it must be admitted that he has made a phenomenal success, being now one of the substantial landowners of Audubon county.

On July 3, 1876, Nels P. Petersen was married to Martha Johnson. To this marriage have been born seven children, one of whom, Anna, the second born, is deceased. The other children are, Clara, Regina, Edward, Charles, Rosa and Hannah. Regina married A. C. Knudsen and has one child, Ester. Edward married Lydia Herbert. The remainder of the family are all unmarried and live at home with their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Nels Petersen are members of the Danish Lutheran church and they are prominent in the affairs of the congregation. Mr. Petersen is a Republican in politics and has served as school director in Oakfield township. Having been one of the earliest settlers in Audubon county, Mr. Petersen has seen it develop from year to year from a raw prairie to a county of the most fertile soil to be found anywhere in the great Hawkeye state.

Mr. Petersen himself has had a large part in this splendid agricultural development, adding not only his labor and toil to the development of the country, but his wisdom and counsel as well. In his declining years, it is a just tribute to his early toil and patience, that he is comfortably situated to enjoy these years in ease.

ALFRED MILLER.

Alfred Miller is a successful farmer of Exira township, Audubon county, Iowa, where he owns two hundred and forty acres of land. Mr. Miller came to America at the age of twenty-seven and has been living in this country now for thirty-three years. He has lived in many different parts of the country and is thoroughly acquainted with the manners and customs of the people in all sections of the United States, through which he has widely traveled. Mr. Miller has been very successful as a farmer and enjoys an enviable reputation in Exira township, where he is living.

Alfred Miller was born on October 8, 1859, in Schleswig, Germany. His parents were Andrew and Mollie Miller, both natives of Schleswig. Andrew Miller was a laborer in Germany, working at various occupations and trades until he came to America and located in Oakfield township, Audubon county, Iowa, where he lived with a daughter, Mrs. Kathryne Hansen. He is now retired from active labor and is living in Exira, Iowa. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, as follow: Alfred, the subject of this sketch; Hans is a resident of Exira; Kathryne is the wife of Hans Hansen; Chris is living in Guthrie county, Iowa, as does his brother, Peter; Mary became the wife of Rhomas Louner; Mollie is the wife of J. P. Christensen; Louise married Chris Hansen, a farmer of Oakfield township.

Alfred Miller received his education in the schools of his native country, and after leaving school he moved to Denmark, where he worked for five years as a laborer on a farm. In 1882 he came to America, and located at Omaha, Nebraska, and worked out by the day for a year, after which he came to Audubon county, Iowa, and located in Oakfield township, where he rented a farm until 1887, when he bought a farm. He operated this farm until 1889, when he moved to the farm on which he is now living. He first purchased forty acres, and has gradually added to his land hold-

ings until he is now the owner of two hundred and forty acres of fine land. He is a general farmer and stock raiser and has been very successful in his agricultural pursuits. He raises forty acres of corn each year, twenty acres of small grains, and sells about fifty head of hogs each year. He keeps twenty-five head of cattle on his place the year round.

Alfred Miller was married on March 18, 1887, to Anna Yingved, the daughter of Swend Yingved, and to this union three children have been born, Mollie, John and Louis. Mollie is the wife of Jesse Nissen. John married Maud Liffingville. Mrs. Miller was born in Denmark, and came to the United States in 1887 with her parents, who settled in Oakfield township, where they lived the remainder of their lives, both being now deceased.

Mr. Miller is a member of the Danish Lutheran church, as well as his family, and takes an active part in the affairs of this denomination. Mr. Miller belongs to the Danish Brotherhood, and adheres to the principles of the Democratic party.

E. JOHN HINRICKS.

Among the older residents of Audubon county, Iowa, perhaps no one has seen more of the world and traveled more widely than E. John Hinricks, who owns two hundred and forty acres of land in Oakfield township. For seven years he was a sailor and for sixteen years he was employed in the gold mines of New Zealand and Australia. During his early career he visited most of the well-known countries of the world.

E. John Hinricks was born on October 16, 1842, in Hanover, Germany, the son of Henry and Rebecca Hinricks, both of Germany. The father was a weaver by trade, and followed this occupation all of his life, dying in Germany in 1904. His wife passed away five years previously, in 1899, after having had six children, Marie, Peter, Thomas, Johannah, E. John and Ina, all of whom are deceased except the subject of this sketch.

E. J. Hinricks, who was educated in the public schools of his native land, became a sailor upon reaching maturity, and sailed before the mast for seven years, when he went to New Zealand and Australia, and there worked in the gold mines for about sixteen years. Believing that he might have a better opportunity in the new world, he came to this country in 1876, and worked in the gold and silver mines of Nevada and Idaho for fourteen years.

In 1890 Mr. Hinricks came to Audubon county, and purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land upon which he now lives. Later he purchased

an additional one hundred and twenty acres, and has been engaged in farming this land during recent years. Ordinarily he raises seventy acres of corn and seventy acres of small grain, and feeds out one hundred and forty head of hogs every year. He has been very successful in mixed farming, and year by year his wealth and profits have grown.

On December 12, 1889, E. John Hinricks was married to Mary Heesen, daughter of Jochun and Hilka (Treese) Heesen. To this union have been born three children, Henry, John and Chris, all of whom are unmarried and who live at home with their parents. Mrs. Hinricks, a native of Germany, as were also her parents, came with them to this country in 1887. They located in Cass county, Iowa, where the father rented a farm for a short time, and then retired and lived with his children. He passed away in 1903, his wife having died many years previously. They had four children, Gasena, Hohannah, Hio and Mrs. Hinricks.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Hinricks are members of the German Lutheran church. Mr. Hinricks is a member of the Masonic fraternity. Politically, he is identified with the Democratic party.

In his travels Mr. Hinricks has met many people and visited many lands, but if he were asked today what is the best country on the globe in which to live he would undoubtedly answer, America. Not only are the people of this country possessed of a greater measure of political liberty than anywhere else on the globe, but they likewise have a larger measure of economic opportunity. It is these things which the people, coming from other lands, first recognize and most appreciate.

VAL LEANORD.

Whether the elements of success in this life are innate attributes of the individual or whether they are quickened by a process of circumstantial development, it is impossible to determine clearly. Yet the study of a successful career, whatever the field of endeavor, is none the less interesting and profitable by reason of the existence of this same uncertainty. In the life career of Val Leanord, who for many years has been identified with the various interests in Audubon county, Iowa, may be found many qualities which always win success. The splendid success which has crowned his efforts, has been directly traceable to those commendable traits which are so much admired by his fellow townsmen. Mr. Leanord served well his country dur-

ing the dark days of the Civil War, giving two years of his life to the service of his country.

Val Leanord was born on September 14, 1843, at Buffalo, New York. He is the son of Simon and Elizabeth Leanord, natives of Germany. Simon Leanord was a stone mason by trade and died in Buffalo, and his wife died in Wisconsin.

Val Leanord enlisted in Company G. Twenty-first Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, in 1861, and during the Civil War served altogether two years and two months. He was engaged in many of the important battles and several minor skirmishes. Among the most important engagements in which he participated were the battles of Antietam, the second battle of Bull Run, Gettysburg, and Fredericksburg. He was shot in the left leg at the second battle of Bull Run, but soon recovered. His brother, John Leanord, was killed at Ft. Wagner. Another brother, Jacob Leanord, was shot through the left shoulder, another ball passed through his body and he died later from the effects of the wounds. He received this injury at the battle of Bull Run. Another brother, Peter, also served in the Union army.

At the end of the war, Val Leanord went to Wisconsin and resided in that state from 1868 until 1888, during which time he was a farmer. He then spent three years in Marshall, Minnesota, and in 1891 came to Audubon county, Iowa. He lived on a farm in Douglass township for ten years and then purchased a farm three and one-half miles east of Audubon. This farm consists of eighty acres and is situated in Leroy township, and Mr. Leanord still owns it. He moved to Audubon in 1906, and since that time has lived retired in this city.

Val Leanord was married on December 23, 1869, to Rachel Ray, who was born in 1849 at Cadiz, Ohio, and who is the daughter of Samuel and Mary Ann (Norfolk) Ray, who moved to Wisconsin in 1852. To Mr. and Mrs. Leanord seven children have been born, namely: Clinton, who lives in Audubon; Ada, the wife of Louis Yackey, of Davenport, Iowa; Mary, the wife of Arthur Dinger, of Davenport; Caroline, who is at home; Frank, who lives in Guthrie county, Iowa; Vallie, of Mason City; and Roy, who married Ludie Frumm, of Brayton, and who is a druggist at Neven.

In politics, Mr. Leanord is an active Republican and has been identified with this party practically all of his life, but he has never held office, preferring to devote his time to his own personal interests rather than to the interests of a political party.

Mr. and Mrs. Leanord are members of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Leanord is a member of Allison Post, Grand Army of the Republic.

CHARLES W. JENKINS.

The grandparents of Charles W. Jenkins were the first people to bring with them their family for permanent residence in Audubon county. Mr. Jenkins' grandfather drove overland to Audubon county in a very early day from Kentucky. The Jenkins family, therefore, has been associated with the growth and progress of Audubon county from the very earliest times.

The father of Charles W. Jenkins was Benjamin F. Jenkins, who married Josephine Gilbert. Benjamin F. Jenkins was a native of Kentucky. He was brought to Audubon county, Iowa, when he was nine years old by his parents. He received his education in Audubon county and after leaving school, farmed for some time. He entered land from the government, paying one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre, and at the time of his death, December 25, 1873, he had six hundred and thirty-six acres. Mrs. Benjamin F. Jenkins died the following year, June 25, 1874. At this time Charles W. was not yet a year old. Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin F. Jenkins were the parents of six children, namely: Olive married Kees Hallock; Hayden is unmarried and lives in Idaho; Margaret married Charles Sykes, of Oakfield township; Mary married Ernest Cotton; Pearl, and Charles W., the subject of this sketch.

Charles W. Jenkins, who is an extensive farmer in Exira township, and who owns a farm of two hundred and fifty-six acres, was born in Oakfield township, Audubon county, January 2, 1873. He received his education in the schools of the county and after leaving school, he took up farming. He began on the old homestead and farmed there for three years, after which he was engaged in buying and selling stock in Brayton for a period of four years. At the end of this time he went to Oklahoma and was there married. He engaged in farming and stock raising in Oklahoma, having leased a ranch of three thousand acres. After remaining in Oklahoma for seven years, he came back to Audubon county and for five years lived on the old home place and farmed there. He then went to Canada and took up farming in that country for two years. In 1912 Mr. Jenkins purchased the farm on which he now lives. He is engaged in general farming and stock raising. He raises about one hundred and fifty acres of corn each year and about eighty acres of small grain. He raises seventy-five acres of hay and purchases about twenty-five hundred bushels of corn each year, which he feeds to about two hundred and fifty head of hogs.

Charles W. Jenkins was married on July 16, 1902, to Eva Walker, the daughter of William Walker. To this union four children have been born:

Keith, Laura, Elouise and Charles. Mrs. Jenkins was born on the farm where she now lives. Her parents were early settlers in Audubon county. Her father was one of the largest landowners in this section of the state, having owned seventeen hundred acres in Audubon county. Mr. and Mrs. Walker had nine children: John, who lives in Cass county; Schuyler, who lives at Anita; Laura, who lives in Canada; Lulu, who resides in Des Moines; Olive, who lives in Exira; Eva, who is the wife of Mr. Jenkins; Jay, who also resides in Canada; and two who died when small.

Mr. Jenkins owns three hundred acres of land in Canada. He is now serving as a school director in Exira township. Politically, he is a Republican.

SAMUEL MCGAFFIN.

Samuel McGaffin is a farmer of Exira township and owns three hundred acres of fine land here. It is a splendid farm and comprises some of the most fertile land to be found anywhere in the township. Mr. McGaffin began his active career as a farmer in Cass county, Iowa, having taken up that vocation after leaving school. For several years, he was associated with his father, who is now deceased, in operating the farm in Cass county. Mr. McGaffin has always done general farming. He makes a specialty of raising hogs and cattle, especially hogs. Practically all of his grain is fed to live stock.

Samuel McGaffin was born in LaSalle county, Illinois, January 25, 1863. He is the son of Alexander and Mary Jane McGaffin, both of whom were natives of Ireland. They were married in their native country and after their marriage came to America. Arriving in this country, they settled in LaSalle county, Illinois, where Samuel McGaffin's father, Alexander McGaffin, was an extensive farmer. He lived in LaSalle county, Illinois, until 1872, when he moved to Cass county and purchased a farm of two hundred acres. He increased this farm from time to time until at one time he owned three hundred and forty acres. He was engaged in general farming and stock raising. Mrs. Mary Jane McGaffin died when Samuel was a small child. His father, however, survived until October, 1909, when he passed away. They had four children, Andrew, Sarah, Mary and Samuel.

Samuel McGaffin resided in Cass county, Iowa, during the early years of his life and after leaving school, he made a splendid success of farming in company with his father. After his marriage, however, Mr. McGaffin

began farming for himself. He now owns three hundred acres of land in Exira township. He raises about sixty acres of corn and about sixty acres of small grain. Mr. McGaffin feeds about one hundred head of hogs each year.

Samuel McGaffin was married on February 1, 1885, to Ida M. Strahl, the daughter of Colbert and Druzella Strahl. To this union have been born two children, Eugenia and Anna Belle. Eugenia married Lester Bowen and has three children, Olive, Earl and Merrill. Anna Belle married Rodney Marten and they have two children, Lenora and Ida Belle. Mrs. McGaffin is a native of Colorado. Her parents, however, were natives of Ohio.

For twelve years Samuel McGaffin served as township trustee. He was elected year after year and continued to fill the office with exceptional credit. Mr. McGaffin also served as director of the school board for fifteen years and worthily discharged the duties of that office. He has always been interested in educational affairs. Mr. McGaffin is a member of the blue lodge of the Masonic fraternity, at Exira. In politics he is associated with the Democratic party and is more or less active in the councils of the party.

RATFORD F. CHILDS, M. D.

The forces which influence a life of ceaseless activity and large professional success are not apparent on the surface and it is difficult to explain or analyze them satisfactorily—the innate knowledge belongs to the individual and he alone can explain why it is that his life has moved along certain well-defined lines and in all probability can give some reason for his success. Success professionally is usually attributed to pronounced ability and energy, coupled with intellectual attainments of a high degree. The biographer cannot do more than note the manifestation of the underlying forces in the individual. In view of this fact, the life of the able physician whose name appears above affords an example of well-defined purpose, with the ability to make that purpose subserve not only his own ends but the good of his fellow men as well. He has attained prestige in a calling which requires for its basis sound mentality and intelligent discipline of a higher order, supplemented by rigid professional training and mastery of technical knowledge, without which one cannot hope to rise above mediocrity in administering to human ills. In his chosen field of endeavor Dr. Ratford F. Childs is achieving success and has won excellent standing among the professional medical men of his community.

Ratford F. Childs was born on July 27, 1874, in Council Bluffs, Iowa, son of Frank L. and Margaret (Dewey) Childs, natives of Vermont and England, respectively. The history of the Childs family begins with the earliest New England days. Labon Childs, grandfather of Doctor Childs, was an early pioneer settler in Cook county, Illinois, and owned forty acres of land now included in the heart of the great city of Chicago. He sold this land for a song and came on westward to Pottawattamie county, Iowa, and settled on a pioneer farm about eighteen miles from Council Bluffs. Ratford F. Childs was born on a farm near Council Bluffs and while he was still a youth, his father removed to Council Bluffs and engaged in the real estate business. Frank L. Childs has retired from active pursuits for some years and has attained the age of seventy-three years, having been born in 1842. His wife, whom he espoused in Iowa, is seventy years of age. When a child she crossed the ocean with her parents, en route to America.

Ratford F. Childs was educated in the public and high schools of Council Bluffs and studied medicine in the University of Nebraska. He was graduated with the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1897. He began practice in Audubon, May 18, 1897, and has been eminently successful as a practitioner, whose skill in the art of healing is recognized by a large clientele.

Ratford F. Childs was married in October, 1902, to Myrtle Frick, daughter of Edward Frick, of Audubon. To this union have been born two children, Edward, aged eight years; Ollwene, aged ten years.

Doctor Childs is a member of the Audubon County, the Iowa State and the American Medical societies. The Doctor is a member of the Episcopal church. He is fraternally allied with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and the Knights of the Maccabees.

GEORGE J. ENGEL.

Among the successful farmers of Audubon county, Iowa, who are of German birth and who are now living retired in Exira, is George J. Engel, whose farm, however, is located in Guthrie county, Iowa. Mr. Engel owns a splendid body of land consisting of one hundred and thirty-three acres. He was actively engaged in farming until 1908, when he removed to Exira, where he has since lived retired.

George J. Engel was born in Baden, Germany, September 11, 1847.

He is a son of John G. and Anna Mary (Kale) Engel, both native-born Germans. The former was a farmer and in his native land was a teamster, also. He came to America in 1856, and located in Linn county, Iowa, where he purchased a farm of two hundred acres. He operated this farm until his death in 1870. Before coming to America he served the regulation time in the German army.

John G. and Anna Mary (Kale) Engel were the parents of eleven children, of whom the following are now living: Anna Mary, Kate, Christina, Mary, Sarah, Joseph, Henry and George J.

George J. Engel received a part of his education in the schools of his native land, finishing his school training in America after coming here with his parents. After leaving school he worked out by the day on farms until he was twenty-two years of age, at which time he was married. Mr. Engle received a farm of forty acres from his father's estate and began farming for himself. Gradually he increased this farm until he had eighty acres, and operated this place until he was thirty years old and then moved to Guthrie county, Iowa, where he purchased a farm of ninety acres. He gradually increased his land holdings in that county until he had one hundred and thirty-three acres, on which he carried on a general system of farming and stock raising. During the time of his active life as a farmer, he was accustomed to feed about sixty head of hogs each year, and always kept about thirty head of cattle on his farm. In 1908 he retired from active farm life, and moved to Exira, where he is now living retired.

George J. Engel was married on December 18, 1871, about a year after his father's death, to Anna Mary Dutler, the daughter of David and Katherine (Schneider) Dutler. No children were born to this marriage. Mrs. Engle was born in Germany. Her parents were also natives of Germany and came to America in 1864, locating in Linn county, Iowa, where her father worked as a laborer until he had saved sufficient money with which to purchase a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Guthrie county in 1879, and there the family lived until 1907. He is now living retired with his daughter, Mrs. Anna Schaarting. Mrs. Engel's mother died on December 12, 1907. David Dutler and wife were the parents of fifteen children, eleven of whom are now living: Elizabeth, Dora, Kate, Maggie, Mrs. Anna Mary Engel, Anna, David, Samuel, Chris, John and Henry.

Mr. Engel's father died in November, 1870, and his mother in March, 1871.

Although Mr. Engel and wife are not members of any church, they are regular attendants of church, and are more or less active in religious affairs.

Mr. Engel is an independent voter, and for many years has not been identified permanently with any political party. He has been a good citizen, and is a man who is highly respected by his neighbors and fellow townsmen.

ROBERT ANDREW JACOBSEN, M. D.

The man who devotes his talent and energy to the noble work of administering to the ills and alleviating the sufferings of humanity, pursues a calling which in dignity and importance and beneficial results is second to no other. If he is true to his profession and earnest in his efforts to enlarge his sphere of usefulness, he is indeed a benefactor to all of his kind, for to him more than any other man are entrusted the safety, the comforts and, in many instances, the lives of his patients. Among this class of professional men is Dr. Robert Andrew Jacobsen, who for several years has had no superior among the physicians of Audubon county, Iowa. During this time, he has not only gained a wide reputation in his chosen profession but he has also established a reputation for uprightness of character in all of the relations of life. He early realized that to those who attain permanent success in the medical profession, there must be given not only technical ability but also a broad human sympathy. Dr. Jacobsen has dignified and honored his profession by noble services and in this profession he has attained unqualified success. Today he enjoys a large and flourishing practice.

Robert A. Jacobsen was born on August 6, 1879, at Des Moines, Iowa. He is the son of Andrew J. and Sophia (Knudson) Jacobsen, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Denmark. Andrew J. Jacobsen came to America when he was seventeen years old. He came alone and subsequently located at Davenport, Iowa. He remained there only a short time and then moved to Des Moines and assisted in building the Rock Island railroad into Des Moines. He engaged in the grocery business after that and for some years was exceedingly successful in this business. After a time he moved to Lakeview, Iowa, and purchased a farm and farmed for a number of years. He is now retired.

Andrew J. and Sophia Jacobsen had five children, namely: Thomas; Marie, who married D. M. Hutchinson; Carrie, who married L. Armstrong; Dr. Robert A., the subject of this sketch; and Fred, who is deceased.

Robert A. Jacobsen attended the common school at Des Moines, Iowa. After finishing the course in the common school, he attended high school at

Lincoln, Nebraska, and then became a student at the Iowa State University, at Iowa City. He studied medicine at the university for four years and was graduated with the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1904. He then came to Exira, Iowa, where he has remained since that time. Doctor Jacobson is a member of the Iowa State Medical Society, the State Homeopathic Society, and is prominent in the councils of his profession in the state of Iowa.

Dr. Robert A. Jacobsen was married, June 16, 1904, to Adeline Brown, the daughter of Fred J. Brown. Three children have been born to Doctor Jacobsen and wife: Marvin B. and two who died in infancy. Mrs. Jacobsen was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where her parents still live.

Mrs. Jacobsen is a member of the Presbyterian church. Doctor Jacobsen is a member of the Knights of Pythias. He served as treasurer of the school board of Exira for two terms and in politics is an ardent Republican. Doctor Jacobsen enjoys a large practice in this part of Audubon county, a practice to which he is justly entitled because of his high professional merits and his upright, honorable career.

WELBERG WOLF.

Welberg Wolf is another of those enterprising, progressive German farmers and citizens of Audubon county, who during the active period of his life was able to acquire a substantial competence and who has lately retired from the active duties of farm life. Mr. Wolf owns the old home place, comprising one hundred and fifty acres, north of West Exira, and one hundred and twenty acres south of Exira. This land is highly productive, and Mr. Wolf has a comfortable competence.

Welberg Wolf was born in Schleswig, Germany, March 7, 1872. His parents, Peter and Margaret (Peterson) Wolf, both were born in Schleswig, Germany. The former was a farmer in Germany and purchased cattle while he was not actively engaged in farming. He came to America in 1883 and located in Audubon county. He purchased a farm north of West Exira, and farmed there until 1902, when he retired and moved to Exira. Peter Wolf first purchased ninety-one acres, and this was subsequently increased to one hundred and fifty acres, which his son, Welberg, now owns. He was engaged in general farming.

Welberg Wolf was one of eight children born to his parents. Welberg

is the youngest. The others were Jens, Chris, Matilda, Christina, Margaret, Mary and Lena.

After attending school in Schleswig, Germany, Welberg Wolf continued his education in this country. After leaving school he farmed with his father until twenty-eight years old. He then rented a farm for a couple of years. He purchased the old home place of one hundred and fifty acres and farmed until 1910, and then purchased one hundred and twenty acres south of Exira. He farmed this until he came to Exira, and retired in March, 1914.

Welberg Wolf was married on June 11, 1902, to Lena Lansitzen, a daughter of Clarence and Anna Lansitzen. Two children have been born to this marriage, Leonard, and one who died in infancy. Mrs. Wolf was born in Schleswig as were also her parents. She came to America with her parents in 1882. They located in Shelby county, Iowa, and there bought a farm. They remained in Shelby county until 1899, and then moved to Audubon county, and located in Sharon township. They remained in Sharon township until their death. He died in 1903, and his wife in 1913. Mrs. Wolf's parents had six children. In the order of their birth they were as follow: Ness, Peter, Mary, Anna, Lena and Claudie.

Mr. Wolf has served as a member of the school board, but with the exception of that office he has not been active in politics. He is an independent voter.

